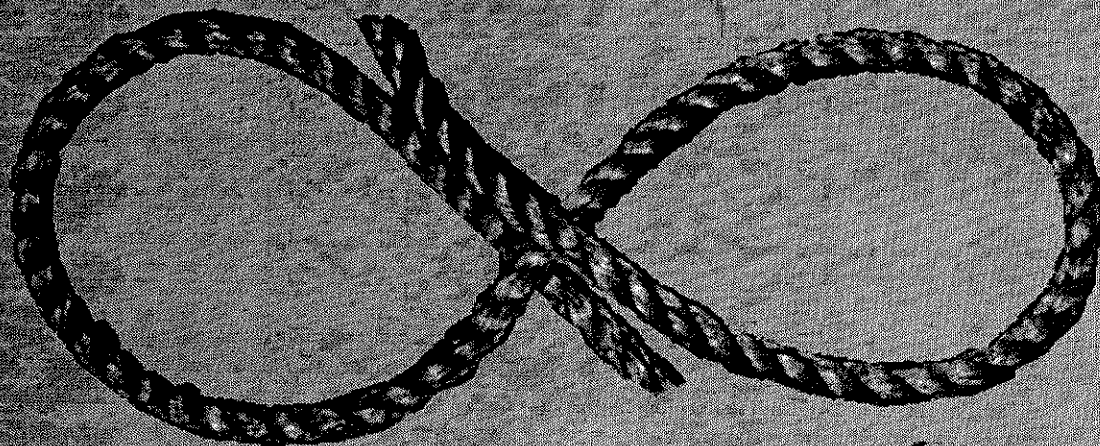




THE SANDMUTOPIAN GUARDIAN

Issue #21

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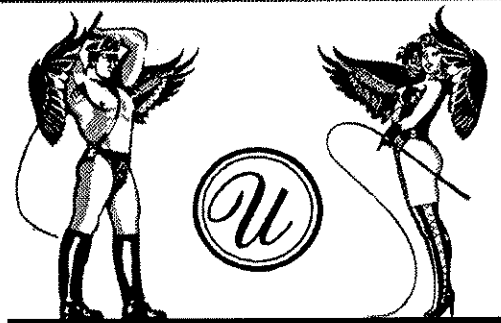
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Our Guardian Angels

The SANDMUTOPIAN GUARDIAN

Published quarterly by:

The Utopian Network

P.O. Box 1146

New York, NY 10156

(516) 842-1711 FAX (516) 842-7518

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Published four times a year by The Utopian Network, a division of ASWGT, Inc., 40 Grant Ave., Copiague, NY 11726. Four issue subscription: \$29 in the US & Canada; \$44 elsewhere. Address all queries regarding subscriptions, advertising, back issues, writers' guidelines and editorial concerns to POB 1146, New York, NY 10156. ISSN#1087-6316. Distributor: Brush Creek Media, Inc., San Francisco, CA (415) 552-1506.

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The Master's Manual, The Mistress Manual, The Kiss of the Whip

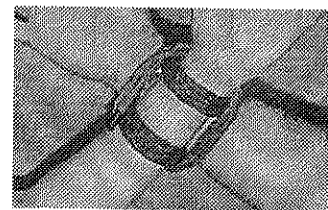
So, I Like to Be Tied Up, So What?!!

Classifieds and Personals

Writer's Guidelines

ABOUT THE COVER:

In this issue, our own "Bo'sun" will teach you several easy-to-learn knots that are useful in a number of ways as well as being decorative. With a little practice, you can learn to tie any-one to anything!



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Letters to the Editor

Our Readers' Forum

Send comments, queries or criticisms to: Editor, c/o The Utopian Network, PO Box 1146, New York, NY 10156 or FAX to (516) 842-7518. e-mail to siradam@ix.netcom.com. Name and address please, which will be held confidential.

To the makers of the Wonderful,
SandMUTopian Guardian

I found your first issue of the "new" Guardian at the only true B&D toy and clothing store in Tucson called Hydra. Sure, Tucson's had other sex and video stores, with maybe a pair of handcuffs (cheapo's) and nipple clips. But that's it! I'm so happy we have Hydra is because that's where I was exposed to your magazine. I buy a lot of magazines, and I feel *The Guardian* is the best one on the subject of B&D. Other international 'zines lure (mostly men) with superskinny models and glossy color photographs. Although there are a few photos I may like in a 100+page zine, I usually (almost always) feel cheated for paying \$20.00+. The actual meat (articles and stories) are very minimal and they only seem to cover event that have actually passed!

Your magazine is packed with "meat" (things to read) that are both informative and interesting. Your S/Mart Shopper section and how to articles' straight-up advice

on how well/bad certain toys work. Ads for upcoming (not past) fetish and leather events.

You do not have a holier than thou attitude and encourage readers in the S&M community to contribute material. The articles you print are relevant and useful to your readers. You don't exclude photos. You are pansexual. Most others are either gay male or het male oriented. And being a bi woman, I seem to get left behind.

Advertisements don't take up the majority of your pages. Also that you feature quality, up and coming craftspeople that we wouldn't otherwise know about.

I could go on and on, but I think you realize these things. I think Issue #20 is so far the best yet and I imagine that each issue will be better than the last. One thing you don't do and I wish you did is make more issues per year. Although I have to wait, it's always well worth it! Thank you for being the BEST!!

*Cher Nobyl,
Arizona*

I happened to notice your magazine Issue #19 while shopping.

You have a down to earth, common sense, fun type of magazine. If I had taken the time to read it before Christmas, I would have given subscriptions out for presents to my friends to add a little spice to their holiday season.

I'm a contractor, and in the year ahead I am going to remodel my bathroom and install an electric winch in the attic above my bedroom with safety stops incorporated. If you haven't already done an article on how-to, I'll send in an illustration of the winch, after I have worked the kinks out of it.

Thanks again for the humour.

*Clyde,
California*

Hello! We're so glad to see the great new look to *The Guardian*. You've done an incredible job. Don't know just when our subscription expires, but extend it for four more issues. Thanks.

*A.M.
Alaska*

Message from The Publishers

A year has passed since we officially became the publishers of *The Guardian*, and this is our fourth quarterly (and on-time!) issue. We are pleased that our family of contributors is growing. Several authors are getting *The Guardian* "bug," and writing articles on a variety of topics.

This issue, we had to put aside some of them because stories and news releases that came in described current, and sometimes urgent situations that we thought important to bring to your attention. (See *Special Focus on The Law* for details.)

Also in this issue is a personal piece about how and who to tell about your BDSM lifestyle. Ironically, we also learned about a family in the US that have been seriously harmed because someone who "knew" used their lifestyle against them

What it says to us is that, although sitcoms make handcuff jokes and Hollywood makes "Exit to Eden," we are far from

being "mainstreamed," as just another lovestyle.

People encounter BDSM prejudice regularly, even if they are not "out and open." What it also says, is that we need each other for mutual support. We can't afford to do to one another what the overculture does to all of us. As they draw circles to shut us out, we need to draw circles to include more of us, not fewer. People-power is our most valuable resource. "They" don't differentiate among B&D, D/s, S/M, BDSM, power exchange, bondage, spanking, fetish, etc., etc., etc.. To "them," we are all the same. Maybe it's time for us to start thinking that way too.

Next issue will also be a milestone for us. We published our first issue (#18) in July of 1995. Number 22 will be our First Anniversary Issue with special features, special offers and probably an expanded size. If you have not yet subscribed, now is the time to take advantage of our longer terms now that we know we can meet our commitments long-term. (See the inside back cover for details.)

Gerrie & Mitch

Wrist Binding

by Mitch Kessler

The wrist ties in this article are intended for simple bondage of a cooperative, communicative partner. This means:

SOMEONE WHO WILL HOLD STILL UNTIL THE TIE IS APPLIED AND WILL LET YOU KNOW IF THE TIE HURTS.

It also assumes that the goal is to be "secure" rather than "escape-proof." Escape-Proof Speed Bondage is a whole other matter.

These ties are easy to learn, and they are effective. Although they are calculated to be as benign as possible, the decision of "how tight is tight enough" varies from person to person and remains a matter of judgement and negotiation. Under "usual" circumstances there should be enough slack in the finished tie to slide a finger between the rope and the limb.

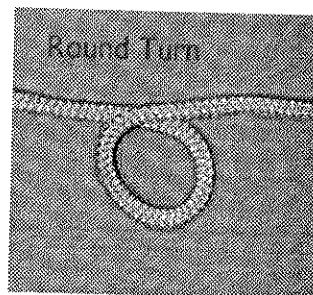
It's also worth remembering that a tie that was in perfect balance when applied can still make rope marks or obstruct circulation if the person they are used on struggles too vigorously. While this rarely creates a medical emergency, a narrow red rash around each wrist might be hard to explain to "others." If this could be a problem, wrist protectors of some kind might be in order. The terry cloth wrist bands that tennis players use can be helpful, as can the adhesive tape used by boxers.

If one has a partner who slips or fights their way out of restraints, resist the temptation to increase the security by making the knots tighter. Instead, study the method of escape and add more lines strategically placed to frustrate it.

TERMS USED IN TEACHING KNOTS

Round Turn:

A line is wrapped once completely around an object, itself, or another line.



Bight:

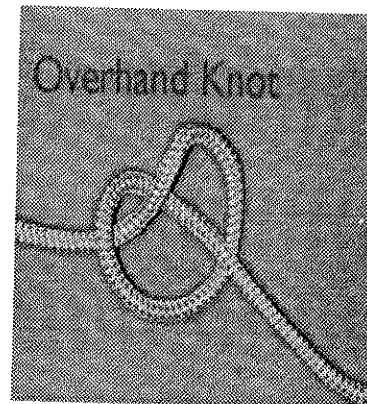
A single loop in the middle of the line. A bight is a Round Turn with nothing in it.

Working End:

The tip and the end of the line that you manipulate to form the knot. The other end is called the "standing part" or "lazy end" of the line. (Incidentally, the wrapping that keeps a line from unraveling is called a "whipping," so ropes, like some people, need to have their ends *whipped* from time to time!)

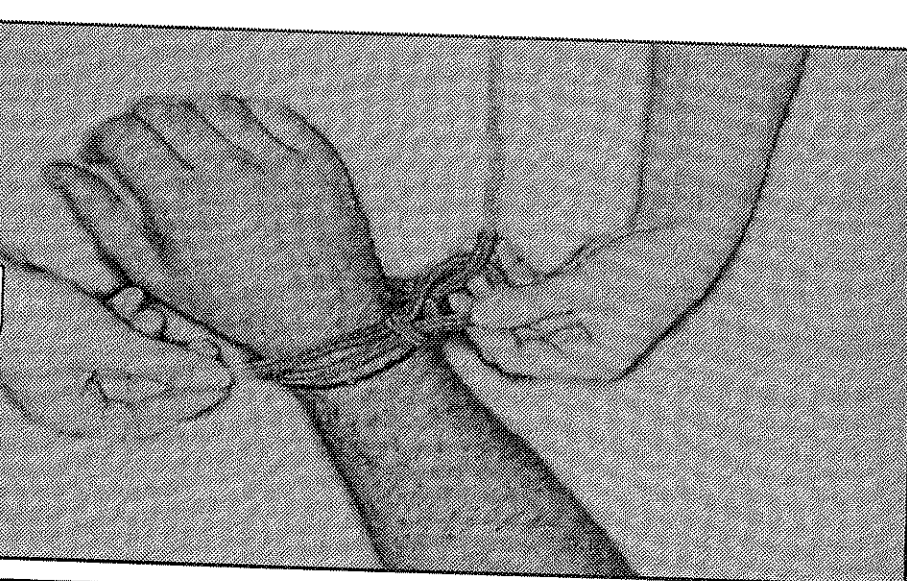
Overhand Knot

This is the simplest possible knot that is a knot. The Working End of the line is passed through a bight in the line, the result, when tightened is the Overhand Knot. There is NO "underhand" knot. When tied over an object, the Overhand Knot may be called a "hitch." If another hitch is taken around the same line's Standing Part, the result is a sliding knot called "Two Half Hitches." The math doesn't work, but the knot does!



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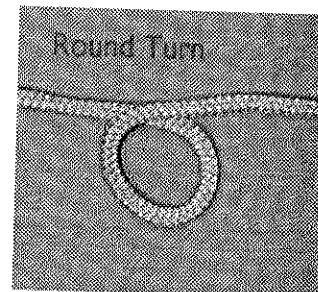
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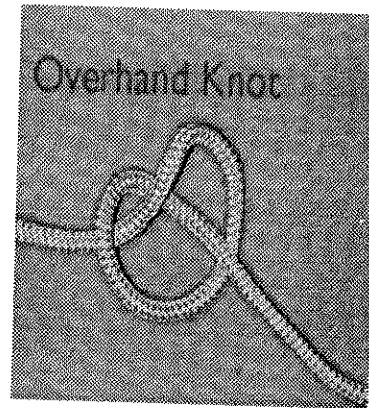
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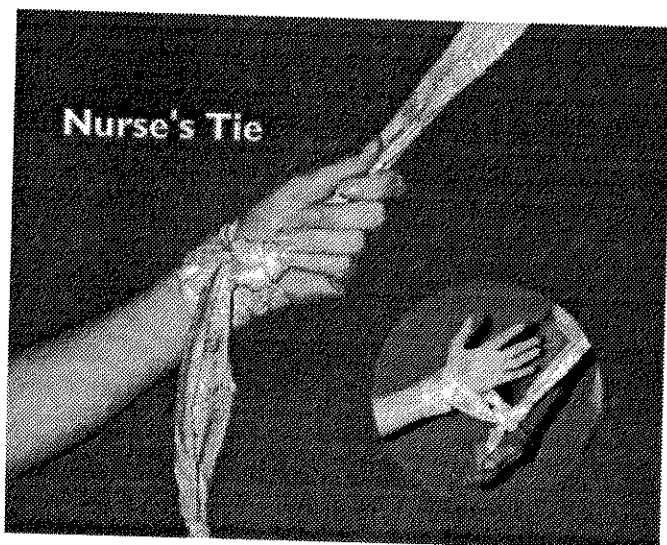
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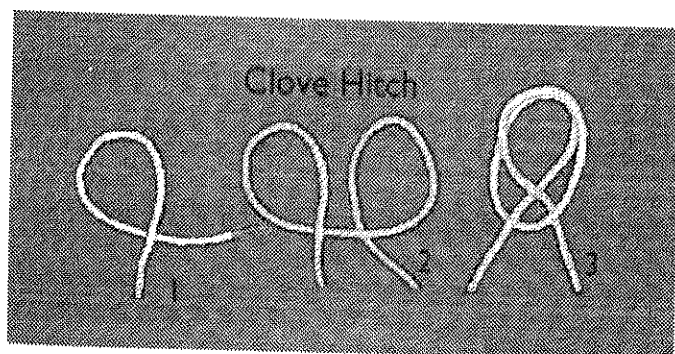




with the bandage, then a Bowline knot tied and adjusted. This arrangement does tighten when pulled, but loosens again, and because of the width of the bandage, poses less risk from circulation loss or carpal nerve damage than the immediate danger of falling out of bed. Today the bandage ties have been replaced by disposable, velcro fastened cuffs made by the Posey Company, and for long term use, the leather locking cuffs made by the Humane Restraints Company..

THE CLOVE HITCH

In restraining people this knot is quick to tie and to adjust. It is used on wrists and ankles in place of a noose or snare. It makes a connection that can be tied and adjusted in a matter of seconds. If backed with a bowline knot it is nearly non-tightening. It is also the foundation of one kind of "rope handcuffs" and for the very useful Square Lashing. **The Book of Knots** by Clifford Ashley, (aka "Ashley's Book of Knots" and "the Bible") cites at least six completely different, and well worth knowing, methods of tying this very simple knot.



Tying the Clove Hitch

Method 1: "On the Table"

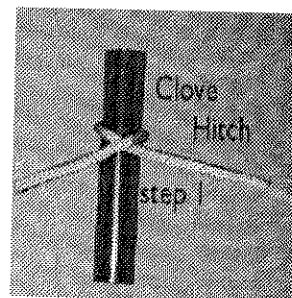
This is a learning method. Once it is mastered the same technique can be used "in the air" without the flat surface. First a loop ("bight") is made with a crossing point "up" (facing you).

A second loop is made with the crossing point "underneath" (away from you). The second loop is then superimposed over the first loop. The wrist (or other object to be tied) is positioned in the "hole," encircled by both loops.

Method 2:

Common Seaman's Method

This is another good way to learn the anatomy of the knot. It is also a good way to attach a line that has a free end to a railing, post, or ring. The working end is passed (wound) once around the object forming a "round turn".



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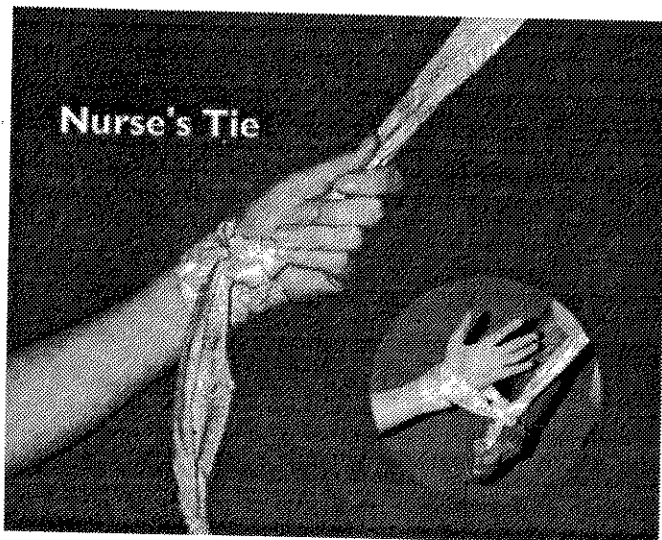
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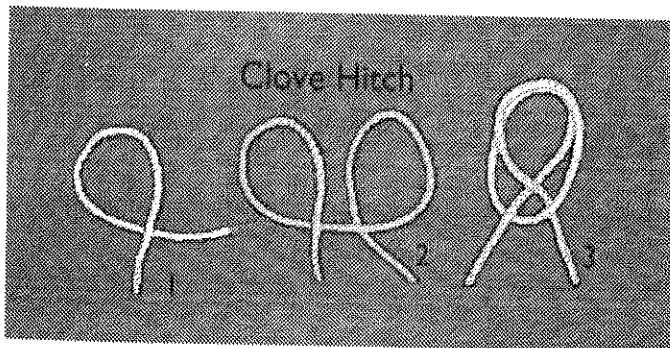
PHOTO: DIDIER BURIEZ, MODEL: JIM LANDOLPHI, A.D.: MERRILL SELDES



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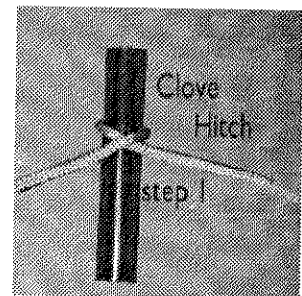
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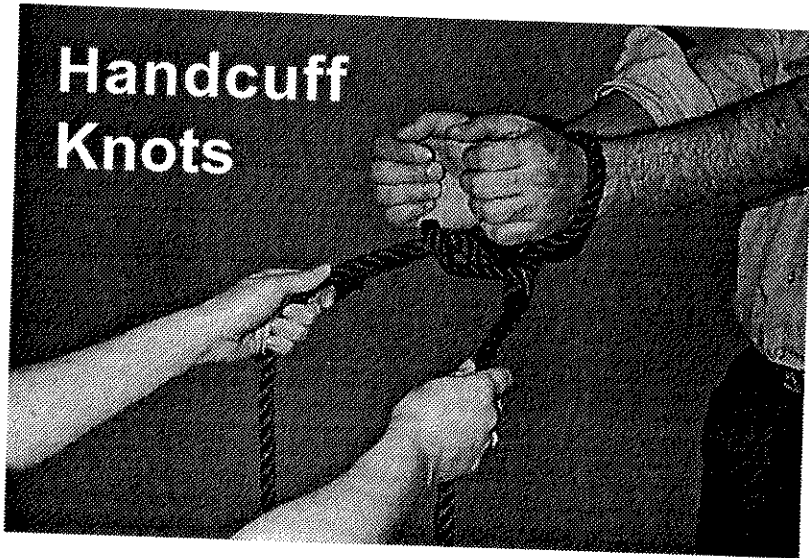
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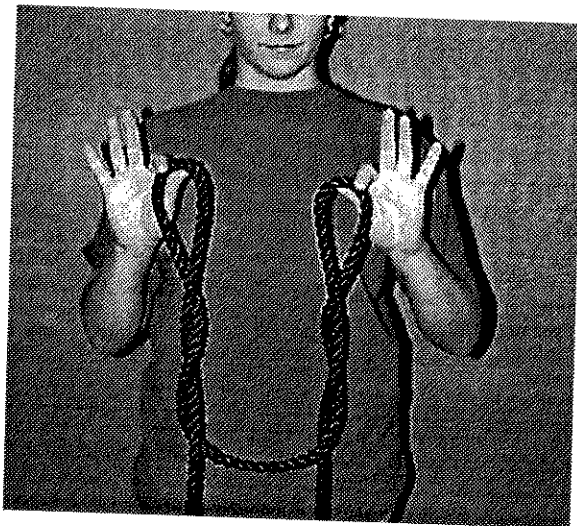
PHOTO: DIDIER BURIEZ, MODEL: JIM LANDOLPHI, A.D.: MERRILL SELDES

Handcuff Knots



Handcuff Knots have achieved a reputation among SMers as rather useful yet esoteric things to know. There is nothing mysterious about them at all. Handcuff Knots are basically bows, pre-tied for easy capture of wrists. They are often tied in the middle of a line 20 to 50 feet long, forming the starting point of a more elaborate and immobilizing tie.

A simple Handcuff knot is formed by passing the two loops of a Clove Hitch through each other forming a bow.



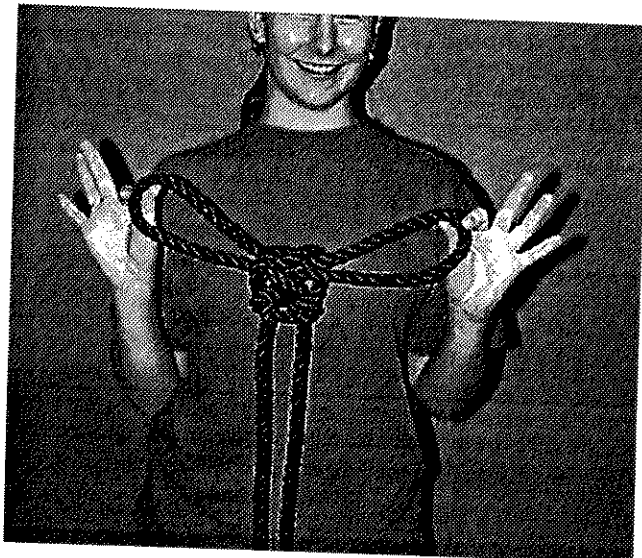
That knot (not illus.) is closed by pulling on the two free ends, one at a time, until the desired snugness is reached. Unless tied off, this design can be opened from inside by twisting and tugging. It remains useful, however, because you can use this tie as a lead or control line, or as a base for further tying.

By taking another twist in each "leg" of the clove hitch, (illustrated left) a more advanced handcuff knot can be tied. It is also started by passing one loop through the other. This design, however, is far more difficult to open from the inside, and it can be snugged by pulling on both long lines at the same time.

It does, however, require more effort and cooperation to *remove* than the simpler knot.

For civilian/recreational use, these knots should be tied with line having a diameter of 1/4" or more. Not only does this show some mercy to carpal nerves and pulse points, the knots are easier to make with line up to 1" thick.

With practice, anyone should be able to quickly form a handcuff knot for all sorts of useful purposes.

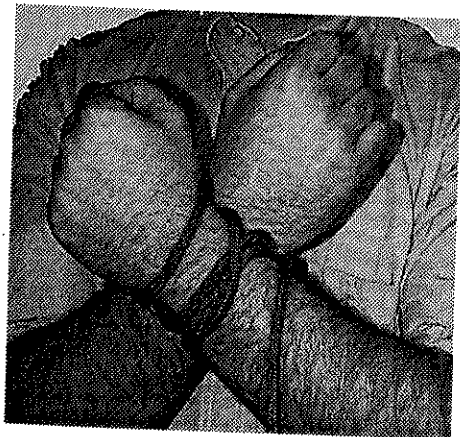
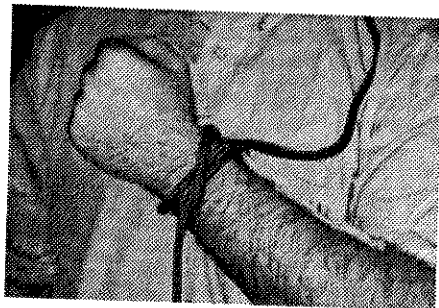


The Square Lashing

Not a "knot" strictly speaking, this tie will secure a wrist to a solid object, or to another wrist, with astonishing security, even if considerable slack is allowed between the wrist and the line. On the other hand, it is easy to over-tighten, and requires a certain amount of patience.

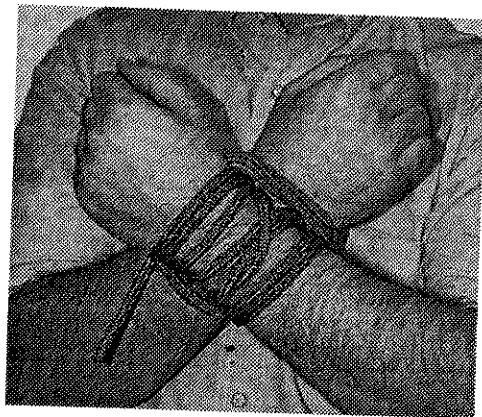
The Lashing is started by applying a clove hitch to one wrist. A Lark's head knot can also be used, but not a slip knot, noose, two half hitches, or any other knot that either tightens when pulled, or which puts only one round turn around the wrist.

Step 1: Apply clove hitch to one wrist



Step 2: Place the opposite wrist at right angles and between the two bights of the clove hitch.

Step 3: Carry the working (long) end of the line over the opposite wrist, beginning an "over and under" pattern which is repeated three times.



Wrap the line fairly loosely. Each wrist will now have three parallel round turns on each side.

Step 4: Carry the working end between the two wrists, encircling the wraps. This tightens the wrappings and brings the wrists together.

This is also the stage where over-tightening is likely to occur. "Too loose" will allow the hands to rotate, which gives an "escape artist" room to untie the knot — or seen another way, provides a measure of comfort and a margin of safety. However, "too tight" can do a lot of crushing damage very fast. Leave a little slack! When perfectly tied, this lashing will allow the arms to be held in an unstressed, natural position, and put no pressure on the wrists at all.

This is a good arrangement for long-term bondage. In fact, the arms "high and in front" position is not impossible for sleeping.

However, the condition of the subject's hands should be checked from time to time. It takes only a little swelling to move from a comfortable snugness to a circulation-restricting tightness. Cooling of the fingers is an indication that this is beginning to happen, but this varies so much from person to person and from time to time that it may be difficult to judge accurately. Pressing a fingernail is a useful test for adequate blood supply. A nail should lighten and then quickly recover its color when the pressure is released. Darkening of the fingernails is a sure sign that the bonds have been too tight for too long and need to be released at once.

Wrist bondage is one of the most popular images in SM fantasy, yet many people shy away from it for fear of causing unintentional damage. As this article illustrates, just a little time and attention paid to knots and ropework will make any partner into just the sort of person you want on the end of a rope — in either direction.

ROSE CITY DISCUSSION CLUB

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Monthly meetings in Portland offer an informal forum and a supportive environment to diverse alternative interests. Our friendly, accepting atmosphere is open to all — couples and individuals of all genders, polarities and persuasions.

RCDC is the "welcome wagon" to the scenes.

Removing the Gag: Coming Out BDSM to the Vanilla World

by Carolyn and Steve S.

Your best friend just spent two hours giving you a blow by blow of their last vanilla encounter with Mr./Ms. Could Be Right and casually asks, "So how about your weekend? Any one new?" Your Saturday night was spent tied to a post and beaten till your entire body burned in pain and each movement brought simultaneous aches and thrills of erotic pleasure but you don't even know the name of the dominant you played with. What do you say? For many of us, the answer will be "Oh, nothing much. I washed my hair." Too frightened to tell even our nearest and dearest we condemn ourselves to living lonely and scared that they'll discover our secrets. And we obsessively tell ourselves that once others do discover us, we will be friendless, mateless, and loveless.



It doesn't have to be that way. You can tell and survive the experience. In fact, telling can be the best thing that ever happened to you. Living a lie always feels grimy and unpleasant. The truth, by contrast affords you a new sense of freedom, a lightness to your step. Nonetheless, telling does entail certain risks and you do need to approach it carefully. Don't start by telling everyone. Be selective and cautious in your approach. The more people who know about your secret life, the more likely it becomes that the secret will leak out. Telling offers many advantages, and we believe that for most people the advantages will outweigh the disadvantages. But before you tell anyone, give some thought to some of the pragmatic considerations.

One of the first things to consider is the community in which you live. The common perception is that the residents of certain geographical areas are more tolerant of alternative lifestyles than residents of other locales. This is often the case. If you live in a large city on the east or west coast of the United States, chances are your friends and acquaintances already know someone like you and won't be terribly shocked. If you live in the rural Midwest or a small southern town, the closest your friends have gotten to BDSM is watching Oprah. Telling them will be harder. But remember, you'll find people who will understand even in small towns.

A friend of ours has managed to assemble a BDSM study group in a small town in Ohio (not a state known for its openness to alternative lifestyles). If he hadn't opened up about his sexuality, he never would have found fellow enthusiasts. Still, it pays to be cautious in regions noted for sexual prudery.

Whom do you tell?

Some of your friends you already know not to tell. They're the ones who say things like: "Those perverts should all be lined up against a wall and shot." Others you're not sure of. To decide whom to tell, ask yourself if you'd be comfortable talking about your vanilla sex experiences with them. If the answer is "no," don't tell them about your BDSM experiences either. If you're close to them already, give it a try. It's always pleasant to learn that your friends still like you even though you beat your lover every Sunday. Don't forget that you're not only telling your friend, you're also telling your friend's significant other since many people share all the details of their lives and everybody else's with their spousal equivalent. Make sure you're comfortable with that before blabbing.

People you must tell

There are two people in your life that you absolutely must tell the truth about your BDSM activities: your doctor and your spouse or significant other. Failure to be up front and honest with these two people can seriously impact your future health and sanity.

Telling your doctor shouldn't be difficult. Doctors strive to remain professional even when they disapprove of the activities you report. And they are sworn to help you. Remember, your doctor has probably seen more extreme activities than anything you can conjure up. If your doctor can't deal with your BDSM life, you need to find another doctor. Keep in mind that health professionals may be required by local law to report, or at least further investigate, suspected spouse abuse.

Removing the Gag: Coming Out BDSM to the Vanilla World

by Carolyn and Steve S.

Your best friend just spent two hours giving you a blow by blow of their last vanilla encounter with Mr./Ms. Could Be Right and casually asks, "So how about your weekend? Any one new?" Your Saturday night was spent tied to a post and beaten till your entire body burned in pain and each movement brought simultaneous aches and thrills of erotic pleasure but you don't even know the name of the dominant you played with. What do you say? For many of us, the answer will be "Oh, nothing much. I washed my hair." Too frightened to tell even our nearest and dearest we condemn ourselves to living lonely and scared that they'll discover our secrets. And we obsessively tell ourselves that once others do discover us, we will be friendless, mateless, and loveless.

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Bad reasons to tell

Just as there are good reasons to tell, there are bad reasons as well. Never tell because someone tells you that you must in order to be a "real" dominant or a "real" slave. That is a lie and a coercive lie as well.

Never tell because you are told that you must to further the cause of BDSM. That's nonsense! BDSM has managed to survive through most of recorded history and it will continue to whether you come forward to tell or not. You are not obligated to become a spokesperson.

Don't tell in the heat of the moment. You risk telling the wrong people, being overheard, and telling too much too soon. You should carefully plan how, where, and whom you tell.

Don't engage in games of one-upmanship. Carolyn went to work one day with her body a mass of fresh welts glowing with warm pain under her clothes. She approached a group of coworkers giggling about their sexual escapades. When asked about their conversation, one of them hastened to tell her that she wouldn't understand; it was sexual. The temptation to tell of her previous night's escapades was overpowering. Fortunately, she managed to contain herself.

Bring people in slowly. Don't start by showing them your new brand.

How to tell

Before you tell, take a few moments to remember why you do BDSM. Remember the heat and the joy. Surround yourself with happiness and pleasure. Then approach your friends and say something like, "I'm so happy and excited that I just had to tell someone and I knew you'd understand even though it might sound really weird." The best thing about this approach is that it simultaneously tells your listener that BDSM is a significant source of joy in your life, that you know that they are special and unique in their acceptance and understanding, and that although BDSM sounds bad it really isn't. This sets the stage for you to then go on and fill in the details. Don't approach them in shame or sorrow. They will take their cues from you and from your attitudes.

Bring people in slowly. Don't start by showing them your new brand. Mention milder experiences first. Be sure to mention that many people engage in mild BDSM play (scratching and biting, light bondage, etc.). Many common sex manuals such as the *Joy of Sex* include discussions of BDSM activities. You might want to emphasize that BDSM is only part of your sexuality. This is not the time to proselytize. Overt efforts at proselytizing make most people uncomfortable. It is more important that the people you're talking to accept your lifestyle, than for them to try it.

If it upsets them . . .

No matter how carefully you pick your words, some people will be upset by your involvement in BDSM. Often this results from misinformation or the lack of shared vocabulary. For example, S&M may mean something warm and fuzzy to you, but to your Great Aunt Melba it may mean that you kill your lovers and bathe in their blood while performing obeisance to Satan. Remain aware of the effect that your words are having on your audience as you speak. If at any point one of your words seems to provoke a reaction, don't just soldier on with the discussion. Stop. Ask the person you are speaking to what they believe the term means; then explain how you are using it.

Don't argue the merits of *BDSM* with them. Listen to them and truly try to understand their discomfort. Ask questions and allow them to ask questions of you. Try to frame your answers within the framework of the questioner's understanding, though keep in mind that you are never obligated to answer any question.

No matter what they say, do not react emotionally. Stay in control and allow them to express their emotions, while you guide the conversation. This is a wonderful time to demonstrate the discipline that tops and bottoms strive for in scenes. Emphasize your own happiness and that you are happy with your BDSM life.

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TOYS FOR THE CURIOUS-MINDED

People who desert you for your bedroom habits were probably not worth keeping in the first place.

You might want to compare your interest in BDSM to activities in your questioner's life. Share your personal revelations of how you came to accept BDSM as an acceptable activity, but do so in small doses. Remember, you've had a long time to get used to the idea of being different. You're asking them to make the journey much faster and with less personal motivation. Keep their needs at the forefront of your mind as you talk with them.

If they are concerned about your safety, try describing the safety measures you use. We've found that it helps to point out that rock climbing, mountain biking, football and a host of other common sports and activities are far more dangerous than BDSM. You might want to emphasize that BDSM plays a limited role in your life. Even if you're living as a full-time slave, you probably spend more of your time at work, cleaning house, eating, visiting with people, or pursuing hobbies than you do tied to the coffee table. Point out that BDSM is not your sole identity. Your friends liked you before they knew you were a pervert, they should like you still.

Don't be afraid of dire consequences. Most people who are offended by your BDSM life won't use their knowledge of it to hurt you; they simply won't talk to you again. Even this exigency is rather limited. We've found that even people who are greatly offended will "forget" that you are involved in BDSM if you consistently demonstrate to them that you are trustworthy, kind, and decent. Even people who might be

tempted to do nasty things (former spouses with an axe to grind, for example) won't do so unless they think that you will react to their actions. Disarm them with your calm, mature acceptance of yourself and BDSM. Be courteous to them and don't discuss it with them again, unless they broach the subject. People are not obligated to share in your sexual secrets.

Some people you won't be able to convince and you will just have to cut your losses. One of the things that has impressed us in our travels in the BDSM communities is that everyone who has come out has their scars from doing so. Some lost friends, some have family that won't speak to them and some have spent harrowing months negotiating for their children. Without exception, all of them have felt that the price was worth the pain. People who desert you for your bedroom habits were probably not worth keeping in the first place.

What if someone finds out on their own?

It's possible that before you have a chance to ask people, they will discover your activities and will ask you or challenge you. Faced with that situation, you have three choices: you can lie and deny it, you can affirm it and explain, or you can refuse to discuss the issue based on the very reasonable stand that what you do in your bedroom is nobody's business but your own. However, before you start worrying about what steps to take with someone who may already know your secret, consider whether they actually know.

The power of oblivion

Don't worry about what people notice. Most people seem to notice very little of the world around them. We were once interrupted in the middle of a scene by a knock at the door. We barely managed to dress and kick the bondage gear under the couch before we invited our friends in. We hoped they wouldn't notice the red marks on Carolyn's body. They sat down for a protracted conversation when Carolyn suddenly noticed chains and a wrist cuff visible under the couch. As casually as possible she kicked them back under but she was positive that they had been spotted.

For two months we discussed what do to do about the unwitting revelation. We decided to come clean. It turned out that neither of our friends had noticed anything and weren't quite sure what we were talking about.

Others may notice, but won't say anything to you, or anyone else. If they figure things out too quickly, you may have found a fellow closet pervert. Many BDSMers are in the habit of peeking at people's baseboards or whether a hanging plant's ceiling bolt is actually there for some other purpose.

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What's the worst that could happen?

Much of the literature on BDSM tries to convince you that the biggest dangers involved with BDSM are physical or emotional. In our experience that's simply not true. The biggest danger is the social stigma. People with children are especially at risk as various social service agencies of the government will launch investigations based solely on anonymous phone calls. So too are people in certain lines of work — security clearances can be denied without a hearing or even telling the person why it has been denied.

You can lose your friends, your job, or your children if the wrong people find out that you're involved with BDSM and use it against you. In these worst case situations, the "wrong" people are not necessarily those you might think. One couple we know who feared the wrath of an ex-husband were recently investigated by a social service agency after a fellow BDSMer who had been snubbed at a party made an anonymous phone call alleging that they involved their children in sadomasochis-

tic activities. Fortunately, the couple involved kept their wits about them. When the social service agency arrived with their questions, the couple showed them their locked chest of toys. They demonstrated that the children couldn't get into it and allowed the social workers to interview the children. Because they were honest, straightforward, and protected their children, the social service agency did not bother them further.

Sex, Lies and BDSM

Honesty is usually but not always the best policy. Sometimes you will want to avoid telling someone the truth to protect your job or your children. We operate on a policy we call plausible deniability. What this means is that you recognize that someone can only hurt you if you leave the door open for them. Most people are not going to call your boss and say, "I was at an S/M party the other night with my slave and I saw your employee there." People who are likely to reveal your erotic preferences will also usually act to prevent others from

Continued on page 37

Too Violent for Belfast?

(Belfast, Northern Ireland 10/95)

School Dinners restaurant of London planned to open a new branch in Belfast and caused a real stir. Seems that restaurateur Tommy Alexander wanted to provide "entertainment" and that would be in violation of the lease.

The entertainment? Having waitresses in white shirts and "school ties" atop short black skirts and black lace tights "punishing" diners for not finishing their dinners by spanking, caning or whipping them.

The Lord Mayor of Belfast, Eric Smyth, who is also a Free Presbyterian minister, demanded that two of his councilmen resign their posts after they posed for publicity shots. He did not approve of them first being spoon-fed strawberries by waitresses sitting in their laps and then being bent over chairs to be punished. One of the men was actually expelled from the hardline Democratic Unionist Party for having his picture in regional newspapers apparently "enjoying" his punishment.

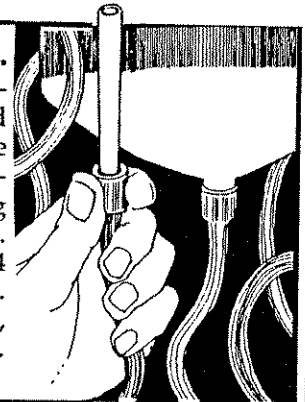
According to a fellow Belfast restaurateur who had been to the fourteen-year old London **School Dinners** establishment, "Mock canings take place, but it's all done with the consent of the person involved. No one is humiliated in any way," he said. London's establishment is a popular place for birthday celebrations and their traditional spankings.

The organizers are expected to find another site in Belfast for their eatery. Stay tuned!

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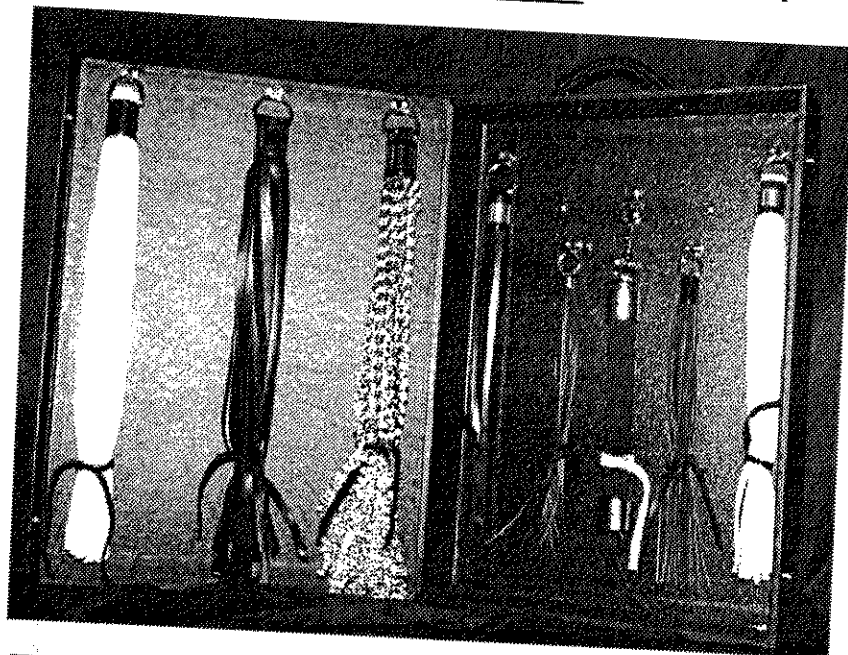
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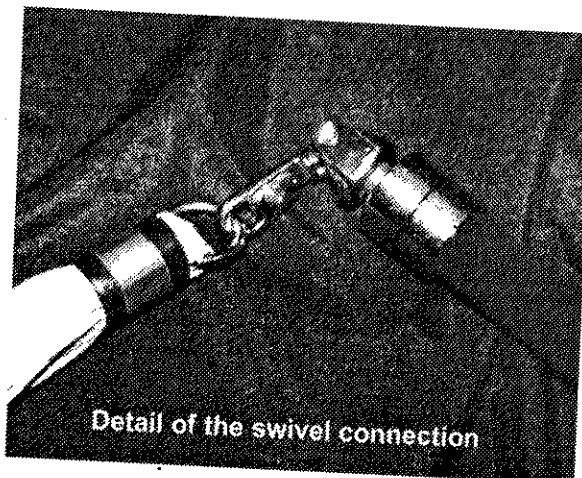
News from our Advertisers



Px3 of Chicago, has added a new "Whip Kit" to its line of unique and versatile products. An interchangeable handle with seven different floggers of varying texture and intensity is the main advantage of this revolutionary and cost-effective concept. Secure in its leather-like 14 x 20" carrying case, it appeals to both the novice and experienced player.

The benefits of the attractive, techno-erotic handle are many. First: two nickel-plated knobs cradle a sure-grip, Black ground rubber handle, providing comfort and a streamlined look. On one end, a leather wrist strap; on the other, the free-flowing swivel with precision bearings that permits completely free rotation.

The whip allows for spin-flogging without the tresses ever becoming twisted or tangled, and figure eight or X whipping with



Detail of the swivel connection

just the wrist, along with the more traditional overhand flogging. The velocity that can be obtained with the unique swivel can turn the most innocent of the seven whips into a torturer, not to mention what Mike calls the increase in "LPM," or lashes per minute. Each whip has its balance point so you just get the momentum of the whip started and it takes a minimum of effort to keep it going.

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15" Black butyl rubber - cut a 1/4" wide for sadistic heavy play.

15" Grey bovine suede - soft and dense for middle-level intensity.

12" Leather lace - 1/8" wide for extreme cutting sensation.

12" Serrated round rubber - 1/8" for skin-pulling intensity during heavy play.

The Px3 Whip Kit comes in its own carrying case, complete with hangers and leather ties to keep your floggers neat and organized. It provides easy access to change your whips in any size playspace. There is also some extra room to store or tote your other toys.

There is the added convenience of not having to fumble through a bag of floggers and untangling them in the middle of a scene at a dark and crowded play party. For the price of one or two good whips, you can have a never-ending combination of sensations and never do the same scene twice.

The Whip-Kit is available from Px3, POB 388361, Chicago, IL 60638 or call their voicemail at (312) 854-6172. (See their ad on page 11.)

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US Couple Loses Children Over "SM Lifestyle"

NOTE: Because the fate of the children is still uncertain, the names of the parents, their friend and the police detective in charge of the case have been changed, and the location is being withheld at their lawyer's request.

"Selina and Steven Houghton's" two children were taken away by a county child protection agency in early January and the couple was falsely accused of child abuse because of an SM video tape stolen from their home.

An ex-friend with a grudge against them broke into their home and stole a video tape and pictures showing Steven playing with Selina on a St. Andrew's cross. Although the children were not in the video or the pictures, the tape, the pictures and false allegations were given to the local police.

"Lieutenant Bernard" is the detective in charge of the case. Upon viewing the Houghton's tape, Bernard made a series of searches of the couple's home, each time pushing the county's child protection agency to remove the two children, a twelve year old girl and a six year old boy, from their home.

One of the involved case workers for the child protection agency reported that they found *no evidence of child abuse* and recommended that the children be returned to their home, but Bernard made threats about creating negative publicity for the agency and the agency management caved in to his demands. Though the agency's subsequent investigation and counseling sessions with the children revealed no child abuse and they have repeatedly reported the Houghton's home as being a *stable, caring environment*, the couple's children remain in foster care after three months.

Having completed their investigation, the child protection agency tried again to return the children to their home in early March. On the day the children were to be released, a close family friend, whom we will call Tom Davis, with Robert Dante (publisher of *Boudoir Noir* magazine), his wife Mary Dante (1995 Ms. NLA-I title holder), Philip Miller and Molly Devon (authors of *Screw the Roses, Send Me the Thorns*) were on hand to support the Houghtons and offer testimony about the SM lifestyle, if necessary. But Lt. Bernard surprised the group as they walked out of the elevator in the courthouse, arresting the Houghtons and charging them with misdemeanors. (Ed. Note: The press release we received did not specify which misdemeanors.)

Selina and Steven spent the day in jail while their friend, Davis tapped his every financial reserve to obtain bail money. The Dantes, Miller and Devon worked to contact attorneys and seek advice.

The false accusations have devastated the Houghton's life. Because of them, both lost their jobs, they've been thrown out of their home and have had to sell everything they owned in order to pay for their defense. They are looking for jobs in a hostile environment and are scraping to get by.

Donations to the Houghtons may be made via:

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For more information, contact:

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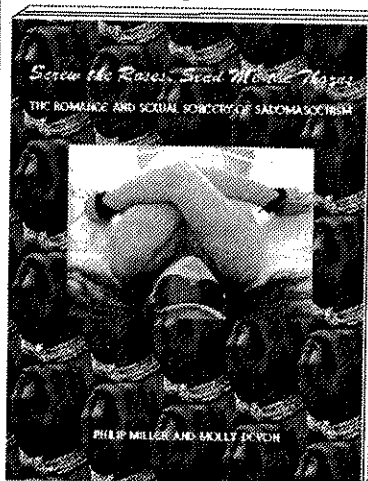
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A Gentle Introduction to *Watersports*

Anonymous, via the Internet

Introduction

Watersports is a slang term for the practice of passing bladder fluid in order to enhance sexual intimacy, or in other words, erotic peeing. The medical term is urolagnia or urophilia.

While this could be a part of a dominance and submission scene between strangers, this article is about water sports between steady partners. It focuses on the sharing of something intimate and personal between individuals who trust each other.

How Extreme IS P.Play?

How long has it been since you peed in the shower or bath? I'll bet for most of you reading, it's been less than a month, and for most of the rest of you, less than six months. For some it is as regular a part of bathing as soaping the washcloth. And why did you do it? Couldn't hold it till you got out? Unlikely. You did it because it felt good. It feels good just to relax and without the worry of finding a suitable receptacle or undoing clothing just to close your eyes feel that little tingle passing through your lovemaking flesh. And there's no mess to clean. And admit this also, at least to yourself. Sometime — probably more than once — when you've been standing waist deep in the ocean or a lake, or even a swimming pool, haven't you enjoyed the warmth of your own fluids seeping through your swimsuit?

Learning to amplify and share the excitement connected such simple joys in spite of cultural taboos against them, overcoming our baseless beliefs in those taboos, and adopting practical methods for engaging our lovers in this joy — that is what this article is about.

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swimsuit?

About Language

I use the word "lingam" for penis and "yoni" for vulva or vagina. Not that "penis" and "vulva" aren't perfectly good words, but they do sound clinical. The Eastern words carry with them a sense of respect for our bodies and remind us to look at them as sacred.

I will often be representing a person's urine stream as his or her "spring," or "fountain." Just as rain-water that falls on a mountain and bubbles forth from a spring at the mountain's foot carries with it some of the essence of the mountain, so does the water that passes through us. That is because, not only does it come from deep within our bodies, it comes from

every part of the body. Urine is filtered from blood, and is a part of our blood only a short time before it passes from our loins. Urine is what's left after our blood has nurtured our sacred selves. It contains the sweat of our souls.

Playing Fair

Everything I have to say in this section can be summarized by the three words: respect your lover. Because, your lover wants to please you, you ought never put your lover in a situation where he or she must choose between pleasing you and avoiding something he or she finds disturbing. Any sex practice against which taboos exist is likely to be more difficult for one partner to accept than the other. Go slow. Allow your partner to become comfortable with easy things first. Move on step by step. If your lover balks at something, accept it and don't apply pressure. The situation may turn in your favor by itself someday. And even if it doesn't, you will still have the one thing that is most important.

What's in it?

Why would you want to come into contact with your lover's urine, and why would your lover want to come into contact with yours?

Urine is not dirty. It is nearly sterile when it leaves our bodies, and, it contains no toxins. It has, in fact, been used as disinfectant and as medicine.

Urine is mostly water. Besides that, it normally contains the following: Soluble minerals in excess of your body's needs, mostly salt, but with some magnesium, calcium, potassium, and phosphate plus a variety of non-toxic metabolic byproducts.

What About Safe Sex?

A number of the many Hepatitis viruses can be transmitted in urine.

Continued on page 20

It's What The Fetish World Is Coming To...

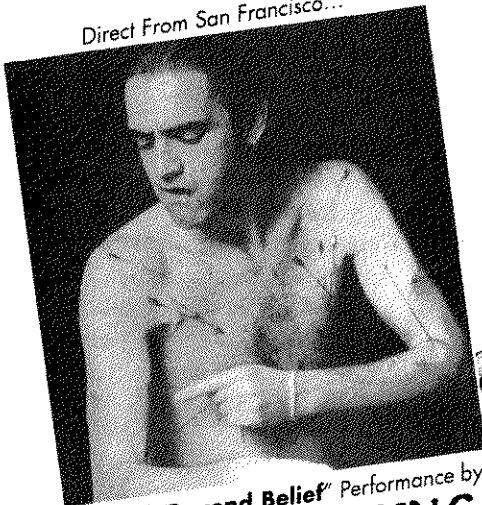
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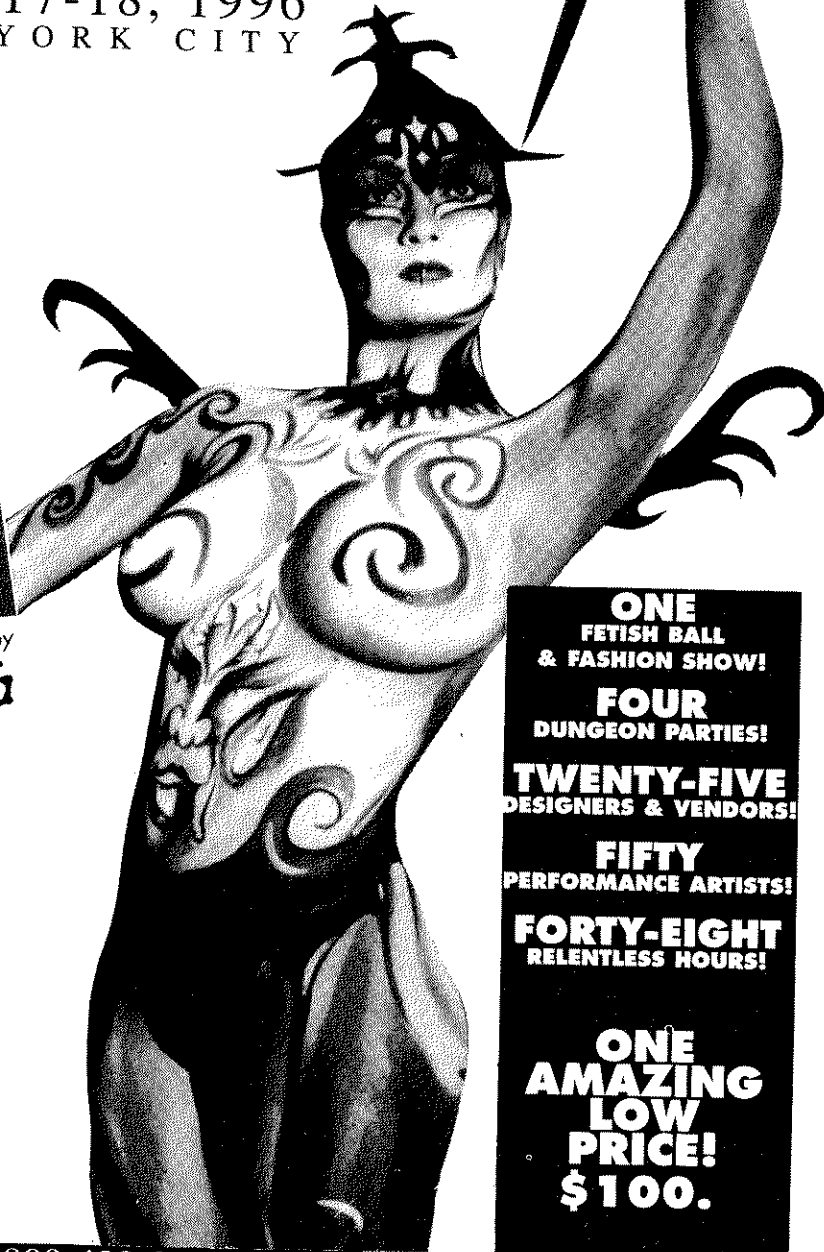


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However, there is no clinical evidence suggesting that HIV remains active after transiting the bladder. There are a number of toxic and hallucinogenic chemicals that are concentrated in urine, too. So there are a number of conditions you would want to know about before drinking a partner's pee. Overall, however, none of these activities are any more risky than unprotected intercourse. But why would you seek it? First, water is fun to play with and play in. Sex is fun too. Why not combine them? Surely you and your lover have splashed each other in the bath or while swimming and enjoyed it — perhaps even worked yourselves into sexual excitement doing it. Wet lovemaking is the same thing, but with a splashing more directly connected to your bodies.

The aversions you might have about sharing your lover's spring are the last barriers between your genitals and your lover's. When you have overcome it — and you can — it will wash away all the hidden notions you might still have of your partner's sex organs being dirty.

How Can I Touch That Stuff?

So you still feel a little strange about touching pee?

Next time you're alone in the shower, go ahead and pee, but hold your hand in the stream. Revel in how warm and touchable it really is. Feel the gentle insistence of the stream splashing against your skin. And remember, everything in urine is water-soluble and washes completely away as soon as the shower water flows over it. If the smell bothers you, try having a big drink about an hour before you shower, or shower at the time of day that your urine is normally most dilute.

Now ask your lover to pee in the shower. Your lover will probably agree to this easily, since it is so harmless. Hold your hand in your lover's stream.

Next time you're
alone in the shower,
go ahead and pee...
Revel in how warm
and touchable
it really is.

Revel your lover's warmth. Tell your lover how good it feels. Showering together is fun. Do it often. Touch your lover's wet body and encourage your lover to do the same to you. And do a lot of kissing and fondling of lingam and/or yoni. Get used to what they are like when they are wet. Use cool water whenever the weather permits, so that your lover's spring will feel even warmer by contrast.

When you are comfortable doing those things, try the same exercises but with the shower turned off. As soon as you're done, turn the water on and wash off. As you become less inhibited, try holding your hand right against your or your lover's lingam or yoni as the stream flows. Smear it over the genital area. Direct it down the thighs.

When you and your lover are comfortable touching each other's streams, try lying down in the shower or bath between your lover's legs and let your lover pee on your tummy or on your lingam or yoni. Some folks experience a nearly instantaneous orgasm the first time they feel their lover's stream on their genitals. If this happens to you, you won't have to ask your lover to change places. He or she will likely volunteer.

Here's another fun exercise. Next time you're at the beach with your lover, stand waist deep in the water,

embrace, and then both of you let flow. The warmth feels good in the cool water, doesn't it? And there is the added excitement of strangers being present but not knowing what's going on.

Another wonderful situation is the next time you and your lover are caught together outdoors in a rain-storm, either intentionally or otherwise. As long as lightning is not a danger, this is a romantic and titillating situation. You will probably hug and cuddle a lot just for warmth. Since your clothing is likely to be so wet that there is no danger of forming an embarrassing stain in the crotch, feel free to pee in your clothing as the spirit moves you. Try it while you are embracing, or place your lover's hand on your crotch as you do. If privacy permits, try placing your lover's hand inside your clothing as you do. Ask your lover to do the same for you.

Although a man usually has a hard time maintaining a stream while his lingam is being erotically stroked, women usually do not suffer the same syndrome. Ask her to pee while you stroke her yoni the way she likes it during normal lovemaking.

And, in your ordinary home life, take turns watching each other pee. Be creative in the positions you choose to pee in. Both men and women can still hit the pot in unorthodox positions. If you are in the woods, accompany each other when nature calls. Don't hide it from your lover, make a show of it. Watching can be a strong turn on.

How Do I Ask For It?

At this point, you may think you could be completely uninhibited with the thought of peeing with your lover, but you don't think you could ever persuade your lover to participate. How do you broach the topic?

Continued on page 43

An S&M Wedding

by JoJo Hughes

The first time I met Brian he was sporting a Mohawk hairdo comprised of all the colors of the spectrum. I couldn't quite handle the way he looked. I could only ask one question. "Has your mother seen your hair?"

This is the 90's you know and the hair was soon normal, but then the tattoos started ... followed soon after by the piercings. I watched it all happen and got used to these new adornments as one followed the other.

When Brian said he wanted me to meet his girlfriend, Nicole, I didn't know what to expect. This little tiny girl with the crazy hairdo and the combat boots suited Brian perfectly. Her nipple rings and his nose ring convinced me that they were made for each other!

They also shared a love of leather, and kept buying each other presents from my shop, **Underground Leather** in Fort Lauderdale. When they each ordered harnesses, I had no idea they were planning a wedding! The outfits were finished in time for Nicole and Brian to head south to Key West for the biggest event of the year, "Fantasy Fest." (For the uninitiated, Fantasy Fest is a yearly event that rivals New Orleans' Mardi Gras. The costumes are out of this world and everyone displays their wildest fantasies.) Our couple wanted to get married there. As a gift, I made Nicole a headpiece out of Black Leather Roses and Black Veiling.

Much to my surprise, I received a call from them. They had gone to Key West, but couldn't find a Justice of the Peace that they could afford. They had the license, so ... they called some of their Ft. Lauderdale friends, arranged a wedding barbecue, and asked me to perform the ceremony because I am a Notary and can do that in the State of Florida.

The traditional ceremony was altered slightly to accommodate our bride and groom. It started off with the usual "Dearly Beloved," and the statement that "Master" Brian and his "slave" Nicole have stated that they wish to be united in holy matrimony.

I read passages from "The Prophet," by Khalil Gibran that deal with the treatment of one another and then asked the usual questions of each of them ... in an unusual way:



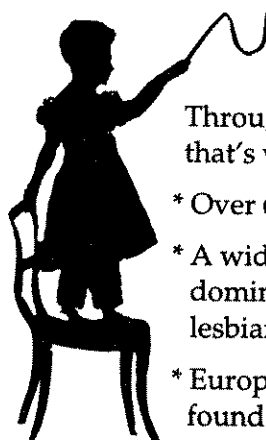
"Do you, Master Brian, take Nicole to be your wife and slave, to live together in holy matrimony, and in an S&M lifestyle, to love honor, comfort her and keep her in sickness and health, and, forsaking all others so long as you both shall live?" I then asked Nicole the same things, adding only "obey," as was proper for a slave.

They repeated the vows and exchanged nipple rings instead of finger rings. After the usual pronouncement, "By the

power vested in me by the State of Florida, ..." their kiss was just what you would expect. She knelt and kissed her husband and Master's feet before he embraced her.

JoJo Hughes, formerly of New York City, is now making and selling her Underground Leathers at 1170 NE 34th Ct. in Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334 (305) 561-3977.

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If there is one fantasy central to the iconography of SM relationships, it is that of dominant and submissive. Whether you play roles for minutes at a time, or manage a full time dominant/submissive relationship, the history and myths of human slavery and service fuel expectations and behaviors in the bedroom ... and in the dungeon.

But which models turn up in our erotic visions? Greek and Roman slavery vs Medieval serfdom, vs Gorean slavery, vs lifestyles of the Samurai, the Ghurka, and the modern Marine — every one has its unique aspects.

In this Guardian series, writers will take turns examining particular paradigms, or patterns, of slavery and service, looking into both the past and the literary imagination for examples of how SMers can view their play and lives. Got a favorite paradigm of your own, a style of submission that works for you? Write and tell our readers all about it.

To Serve in Close Attendance to Nobility: Samurai Tradition in an SM Context

by Laura Antoniou

Attendant to nobility (samurai)
Ask for your master's umbrella
The dew beneath the trees of
Miyagino
Are thicker than rain

-- poem from *Kokinshu*, 1091 CE -
earliest known reference using the word
"samurai"



For far too many westerners, the image of the samurai is bound unmistakably with half-remembered stereotypes of rigid, fanatical warlords who haphazardly order their robotic followers to slit their bellies for the slightest reason.

Yet, within the samurai history and literature is a wealth of sage advice for daily living, a remarkable source for strategic thinking, and a proud tradition of service and loyalty which could serve as an admirable alternative to the western images of master and slave, owner and owned, the basis for many relationships in the SM/leather community.

The word *samurai* itself is often translated as meaning warrior, but the correct word for warrior is actually bushi. (Bushi-do = the way of the warrior.) Samurai comes from an older word, *saburau*, which roughly means, "those who serve in close attendance to the nobility." The very essence of samurai existence and thought, when it is not concerned with winning battles, is that of service. Service to one's lord (daimyo), and service toward one's retainer.

There is no single "samurai code" to consult, because the tradition was developed over hundreds of years, with disparate leaders instructing their retainers to practice or shun different things depending on the time, the political upheavals in Japan, and/or their personal beliefs. But even a cursory study of some of the legacies left by famous samurai lords and generals will reveal precepts which are easily applied to a special kind of relationship, one which is not adequately served by the more common descriptions. My attempt here is not to create rules for such a relationship, but to encourage the consideration of this style as an alternative to the usual master/slave, daddy/boy, owner/owned pairings. My study of these traditions can at best be called cursery, so I apologize in advance for my lack of scholarship.

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Samurai Bottom - Hold the Belushi, please.

A samurai style relationship in SM would be one based primarily on honor, loyalty and respect. It would not necessarily have anything to do with love or sex, although nothing stands to rule those things out. Above all, it would be a relationship between adults, both of whom have responsibilities, both to each other and to the greater world. This would be the first major break-away from the western tradition. A slave is often considered the lowest on the social rung of society. But even the lowest grade samurai is considered a part of an elite group, whose responsibilities and traditions are vital to the stability of the society.

A lot of the precepts of samurai ethics are based in Confucian doctrine, which stresses austerity, humility, clear thinking, and an adherence to authority. Also included is a reverence for study and continual self-improvement, and a directive to be disciplined in all things:

Those who desire to govern their states should first put their families in order. And those who desire to put their families in order should first discipline themselves. — *Confucius*

This is obviously a good basis to begin the structure of any relationship. But underneath it is the principle that leaders or

masters must possess the very discipline that they will expect from their retainers; they must be in control of themselves even to a greater extent than their potential followers, providing a role model for behavior and discipline. And it also assumes that anyone may

have the potential for leadership, as long as they are self-disciplined and organized. That would be another aspect of the experience of a samurai bottom; that one day, they may be expected to use the skills they have mastered in their service in order to become leaders (masters/daimyos, etc.) themselves. In fact, the samurai tradition is perfect for people who want to have submissives of their own yet still maintain a submissive relationship with someone else.



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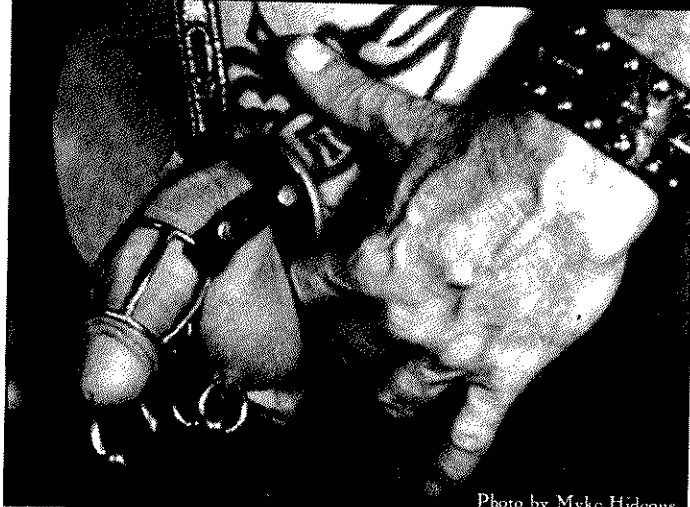


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Much of the advice culled from the writings of the samurai warlords and leaders is advice to those in service. The reason is simple; in the structure of that culture, each leader was almost guaranteed to have a direct superior, to whom he owed the same measure of loyalty and respect that he was due from his retainers. Even the most powerful of military generals would have to show submission to the Emperor (although the actual political value of that submission decreased over the centuries).



tion, advising retainers to learn about and practice justice, and to hear differing opinions and keep silent until they know enough to comment. These skills were to be honed because it would make them more useful to their lord in any capacity, so that should the lord wish a service, they can instantly fulfill it. But should they be ignorant of a particular matter or skill, they are counseled to admit it quickly, so as not to waste any time. That situation is acknowledged as potentially embarrassing, but not as bad as actually committing an error, which causes one to lose face. Yet even then, retainers are advised to take their punishment and not dwell on the error. In the Lun Yu, quoted at length by Takeda Nobushige in his *Ninety Nine Articles*, it says:

When one makes a mistake, he should not be hesitant to correct it. Making a mistake and not correcting it, this is the real mistake.

Retainers were not permitted to pass judgement on their masters, and in fact, there is an old riddle about samurai behavior which is meaningful here.

It goes, "Which samurai is behaving more in the spirit of Bushido, the one who serves an even-tempered and just master, or the one who serves an angry and cruel one?"

The answer is the samurai who serves the harsh master, because his loyal service to an unjust lord gains him greater merit as samurai. But SMers wishing to use some of these concepts don't necessarily have to find themselves angry, unjust masters in order to gain samurai brownie points. (After all, historically, most samurai didn't have much choice in who they got to serve.) But the lesson in that riddle does have meaning in the little injustices which occur as part of any human relationship, whether they're as slight as a forgotten special day or as meaningful as a broken promise. If the samurai bottoms could compose themselves with patience and reflect upon the spirit of their loyalty, these common elements of the relationship can become spiritual tests to overcome, training for dignity and self-discipline.

(Of course, it goes without saying that samurai tops must strive to remember those special days and keep their promises!)

Together, top and bottom can be striving for a kind of perfection, knowing that it is unobtainable in life, but searching for it nonetheless.

Continued on page 46

Everything in a samurai's life revolved around service to the lord, even to the choosing of what to wear and how to conduct one's affairs at home. There were always questions: how will this action reflect on my master? Will this purchase be judged appropriate for a person of my level? Will my behavior be noted and praised, or will word get back to my lord that I am rude and boorish, uneducated or unjust? A samurai would never sit quietly when their lord was spoken of harshly or with disrespect, the status of their new enemy only a basis upon which to determine their action. A low status person might be rebuked verbally, or punished instantly, if the samurai had jurisdiction over them. An equal might be challenged instantly to a duel. (And so might a superior, depending upon the nature of the insult and the conditions of the meeting.) Sometimes, a samurai might just have to leave the presence of such hostility, proud and silent and with all the dignity possible. But they would never forget it.

Service to their lord is not only their responsibility, but their pride. A samurai bottom, therefore, should seek only the finest of persons to serve, hoping that one day they will achieve the presence and ability of their master. It is an honor merely to be in the master's presence, as seen in this behavior guideline from Hojo Nagauji (1432-1519):

When one has been addressed by the master, even though he is seated at a distance he should quickly answer, 'Yes!', draw forward immediately, approaching on his knees, and make his response with full respect.

Nagauji also suggests showing respect to the master's equals and associates, especially when they are leaders themselves. He says:

To be without deference. . . would be outrageously rude.
To be samurai is to be polite at all times.

There is plenty of what I call "scouting codes," instructions to be truthful, reverent, clean, punctual, and to pay attention to details. But an awful lot of attention is paid to ethical instruc-

*After seven years in a Master/slave relationship,
I was surprised to learn something new about my submissive. She loves cages!*

How did I find out? During a trip to San Francisco, we saw a large cage on display in a store selling leather products. She begged to be locked inside, and then refused to come out. She stayed inside until I was ready to leave the store. She wanted that cage. Despite the price of \$800, I would have bought it, too, but there was no way to hide or disguise it in our home—and for us, that is a critical factor.

Today our dungeon is graced by three cages, and we have played with several other cages. I will show you a quick and easy way to have your own cage that stores out of sight in less than a minute. Perhaps you will love your cage as much as we love ours.

Cage Play

by
Michael Kraft

What is it About Cages?

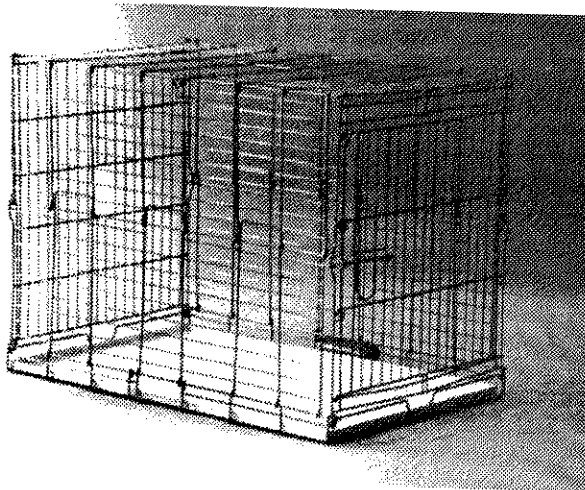
My submissive loves to be locked behind bars for a while. She says cage play is fun. Sometimes I cage her while I transform our vanilla rec room into a dungeon. Other times, the cage is the session. What does she get out of it?

It's great for that transition period from the hectic vanilla day with its scattered energy into the relaxing world of submission with its highly focused energy. Once the door clangs shut, there is nothing for her to do, nothing at all. She has no responsibilities, and nowhere to go. Ah... pure pleasure.

"How did you know?" she says when she sees the cage ready. After fifteen minutes or more in the cage, she finds a sense of serenity that helps make our scene relaxed and fun. I get an added bonus: I can set up the dungeon during that time. If I need a little time to find my own focus, well, she isn't going anywhere.

Later, the cage can also serve as a bondage device, to hold her firmly in position while I engage in some delicious tortments. Of course, I get a certain erotic charge out of keeping her caged. Sometimes, in my fantasy world, we live in another reality, and she is always kept in her kennel until I have need of her. Oh, I wish....

But wait, you say. Your situation is different. You can't have a cage. They're big, bulky, expensive and impossible to



hide, aren't they? And building a cage requires special skills, like welding, or tools you don't have. Wrong. Let me introduce you to a cage I call the Twenty Second Cage. I call it that because it is a collapsible cage that takes me only 20 seconds to set up, and 20 seconds to knock down again. Actually, I've been timed at 15 seconds, but, hey, I'm a conservative kind of guy.

Moreover, there is nothing to build, although you must go to three different stores to buy all the parts. The whole thing costs less than \$150. There are three main parts to purchase: The collapsible kennel, the foam floor, and the restraining rods.

The Collapsible Kennel

There are many different collapsible, or folding, kennels available. You can find them in pet stores. They are meant to hold large dogs.

The best folding cage I have found is made by Precision Pet Products, Inc. You can call them at 1-800-397-3167 to find the nearest distributor, or you can order by mail from *The Cherrybrook Catalog* (1-800-524-0820). Ask for the SuitCase Crate (or SCC). I have the SCC4000, which is 36 inches long, 23 inches wide, and 27 inches high. It folds down to only 3 inches high, and has a convenient handle to carry the folded cage to store it somewhere out of sight. You can also order the SCC5000 (42 L x 24W x 29H) or the SCC6000 (48L x 27W x 36H). Prices range from \$80 for the 4000 to \$130 for the 6000. The basic cage is made of silver-toned wire, but for about \$5

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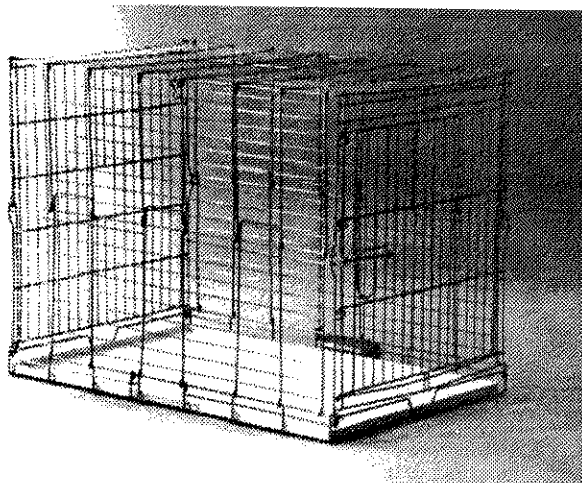
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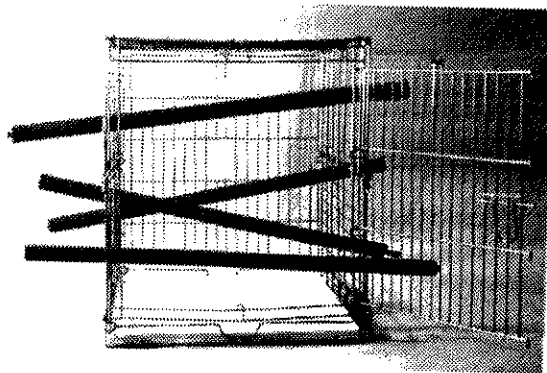
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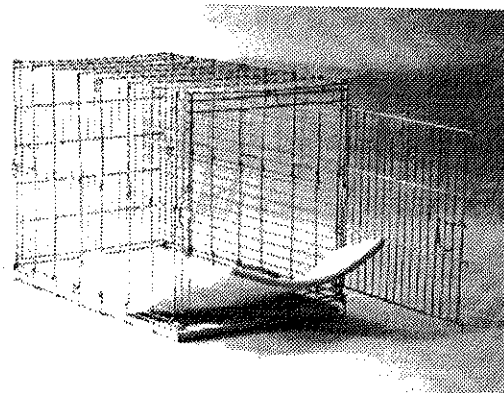
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The finished project showing

← rods
and
the foam liner →



Besides using the rods to pin down your partner, you can also use the rods to create a footrest or leg-rest in midair, very useful to prevent muscle cramping in certain positions. One friend used a rod as a poker, to tickle my submissive.

Be creative.

Optional Modifications

Once you have the cage, you may want to consider a few modifications to the basic design. These correct minor flaws in the design, since it wasn't originally designed as a play cage.

The first problem is that you can't easily reach inside the cage when the door is closed. Solve this problem by making access holes. The best pattern is two holes each in the ceiling and sides (one at each end), and one hole in the back panel. With this pattern of access holes, I can easily put my hand anywhere inside the closed cage.

Create the access holes by removing some of the bars of the cage. The bars are really just large wires, so you might be able to use a wire cutter. A bolt cutter or hacksaw blade can certainly handle the job. Whatever you use, be sure to smooth down the rough edges with a metal file so there are no sharp points left to cut your hand during play. The strength of the cage won't be hurt by a few access holes, since the wires of the cage are welded together at each intersection.



Another minor irritation is the handle. The handle of the cage is made of the same wire as the cage. The thin wire tends to cut into your hand, and can be uncomfortable to carry any distance. To increase comfort, wrap the wire with many layers of tape. Even better, purchase some 1/2 inch diameter vinyl tubing at a hardware store or plumbing supply shop, slit the tubing down one side and place it around the wire handle. Wrap the tubing in tape, and you'll have a comfortable handle. As the photograph shows, I went overboard and wrapped it in the hollow foam insulation. Now it's really comfortable.

You may not even experience this last design flaw. My submissive sometimes wiggles, and her exertions can push the pan toward one end. At each end, the pan is held in place by only one wire, with a small semi-circle bend in the middle. With enough force, the pan can be pushed past the wire, and get jammed up. Fix this problem by attaching the bottom of the semi-circle to the wire of the floor just below it. I used some soft wire, but you could just as easily use electrician's tape.

Finally, you may want to customize your cage. Perhaps the name of your submissive painted or engraved somewhere. Perhaps some small belts or wrist restraints permanently attached at the right places. The only limit here is your imagination.

Durability, Safety and Portability

This cage is not meant to resist a full scale assault by a strong occupant. Even my tiny friend could probably dent the cage if she really wanted to. But she loves her cage, and wouldn't dream of hurting it. It is like a small chapel to her, a sacred place to be enjoyed. The bars offer sanctuary, not restraint. Just don't expect the cage to withstand extreme struggles.

Sometimes I lock the cage, but mostly I just secure the latch. When I do use an actual lock, I never leave the room, and always have the key with me. The cage is easily portable. We have taken it with us to parties. But even if your cage never leaves home, it is very easy to carry to a closet, or store under the sofa.

And if someone does find your cage, resort to "plausible deniability": "Oh, that was loaned to me to babysit a dog when my friend was on vacation," you'll say. Now who's going to guess that your friend doesn't like dogs?

So tell your submissive to get down on all fours, and crawl inside. Latch that door. Relax. Focus your energies. Now it's time for some serious fun. Enjoy.

("Sir Michael" lives in the Pacific Northwest with his slave/wife Dina, growing children "for fun and profit." We expect to be reading more from both of them in future issues.)

DANGER, WILL ROBINSON!

CYBERPERVS UNDER ATTACK

Yeah, we know. Part three of the personal ads story was supposed to be in this issue. The trouble is, the topic is "Finding SMers in Cyberspace", and that job might be getting complicated in the coming months.

In case you've been out of town (or all tied up in personal matters), the United States government, in their eagerness to protect minors from dirty pictures, has decided that it can actually control content on the Internet. A piece of legislation called the Communications Decency Act — the CDA for short — has been passed, making it illegal for smut of all kinds (and information regarding abortion) to be sent, stored, or retrieved from the 'Net. Oddly, the politicians who passed this ludicrous piece of legal blather have no idea what "the 'Net" is, except that they don't understand it, and their children probably do.

For those who want to see the complete Telecommunications Reform Bill, a telecommunications law firm has made it available. The URL is:
http://www.technologylaw.com/techlaw/telecom_bill.html

The current text of the CDA can also be found at:
http://epic.org/free_speech/censorship/cda.txt
<http://www.cpsr.org/cpsr/nii/cyber-rights/web/cda/cda.final.html>

The ACLU, the EFF, and many other organizations (see box) have joined in a legal challenge to the CDA. The text of the lawsuit they filed is available under the title ACLU ET. AL. V. RENO BRIEF at:
<http://www.aclu.org/court/cdacom2.html>

The Electronic Frontier Foundation has set up a defense fund to support this and other cases. See:
http://www.eff.org/pub/Alerts/cyberlegal_fund_eff.announce
 To contribute, send donations to:
 Electronic Frontier Foundation
 Cyberspace Defense Fund
 1550 Bryant St., Suite 725
 San Francisco, CA 94103

Nothing is more threatening than technology only your children and grandchildren know how to use.

The battle to overturn the Communications Decency Act began before a 3 judge panel in a Federal court in Philadelphia, PA on March 21.

The basis of the challenge is that the Internet is a unique communications medium which deserves First Amendment Protections at least as broad as those afforded to the print media. The CDA, which criminalizes the transmission or display of so-called 'indecent' or 'patently offensive' materials on the Internet or online services, relies on a policy regime originally applied to traditional mass media such as radio and television. Because every user on the Internet is essentially a publisher, and because the Internet is a global, distributed network without any single central point of control, the only

effective (and constitutional) method of protecting children from inappropriate material is to enable users to control the materials they and their children receive, based on their own individual tastes and values.

As we wait for the appeals process to come through and make the information we give you accurate for more than three weeks, we thought you'd like to know exactly what is going on how you can voice your opinion about this blatant attempt to infringe your right to read, write and view what you like. (And how you can join the fight, of course!) Then we'll cross our fingers and hope that by the next issue, our lengthy list of places to go on the Infobahn to find some fellow pervs will still be accurate.

Love,
 the Ad-viser &
 the Cyberperv Pals

The organizations party to this suit include:

AIDS Education Global Information System • American Civil Liberties Union • Bibliobytes • Clarinet Communications Corp. • Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility • Critical Path AIDS Project, Inc. • Electronic Frontier Foundation • Electronic Privacy Information Center • Human Rights Watch • Institute for Global Communications • Journalism Education Association • Declan McCullagh *dba* Justice on Campus • Brock Meeks *dba* Cyberwire Dispatch • National Writers Union • Queer Resources Directory • Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc. • Stop Prisoner Rape • John Troyer *dba* The Safer Sex Page • Jonathan Wallace *dba* The Ethical Spectacle • Wildcat Press, Inc.

If you are in search of indecency to use in civil disobedience against the CDA, check out the "Indecency Page" at:
<http://cctr.umkc.edu/userx/bhugh/indecnt.html>
 If you are especially interested in Biblical indecency, there is a "Biblical Page" at:
<http://cctr.umkc.edu/userx/bhugh/bible.html>

The Blue Ribbon Campaign for Online Freedom of Expression is described at:

<http://www.eff.org/blueribbon.html>

For more active resistance to censorship of the net, the following may be of use: Read *comp.org.eff.news* to stay informed on legislation affecting the net, and read *alt.society.civil-disob* to see what you can do about the bad legislation that becomes law. For those who have the group at their sites, there's a new *alt.fuck.the.communications.decency.act* newsgroup.

American Civil Liberties Union: <http://www.aclu.org>
Center for Democracy and Technology: <http://www.cdt.org>
Electronic Frontier Foundation: <http://www.eff.org>
Electronic Privacy Information Center: <http://www.epic.org>
People for the American Way: <http://www.pfaw.org>
Voters Telecommunication Watch: <http://www.vtw.org>
Digital Shout: <http://www.nuvo.net/darkness>
Electronic Freedom March on Washington
<http://www.efm.org>

To write or call your Congresscritters:

The Honorable (name)	The Honorable (name)
United States Senate	House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510	Washington, D.C. 20515

Capitol Switchboard (reach any Congresscritter):
(202)-224-3121

Individual contact data can be found at:

<http://www.vtw.org/congress/>

There is a mailbot service which sends to each emailable member of the Senate and House. Send your message to: *Senate@Mailbot.com*, *House@Mailbot.com*, and it will be forwarded. Limits on the use of this service are: 1) One email per 72 hours, 2) no more than 5000 characters per email, and 3) nothing obscene or abusive.

The White House comment line is:

202-456-1111; FAX 202-456-2461

To send email to the White house, the addresses are:

president@whitehouse.gov *vice-president@whitehouse.gov*

Other e-mail resources include:

cda-info@cdt.org (general CDA information)

cda-stat@cdt.org (Current Status of the CDA)

vtw@vtw.org (use subject line "send cdafaq" for the CDA FAQ, or "send ipcfaq" for the Internet Parental Control FAQ)

A CDA mailing list has been set up, CDA96-L The listowner is Gary M. Klein <*gklein@willamette.edu*> Messages must come from registered subscribers. Subscribe by sending a message to: *listproc@willamette.edu* The message text should say: *sub cda96-l <your name>*

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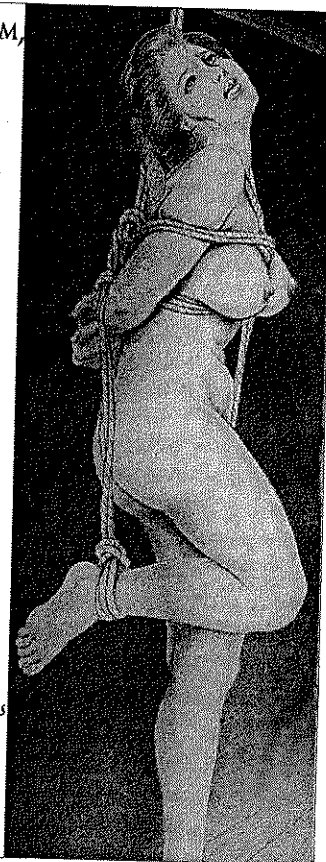
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The Clapper as an SM device

by Nick Adama

The television was on for noise while I surfed the Internet. "It's the new, improved 'Clapper!' Now controls two appliances!" I usually view these types of commercials with a jaundiced eye, but the downloading file was huge and I had time to daydream.

Clap On!
Ouch!
A-h-h.
Ooh!

"There has to be a D/s use for that stupid device... Wait a minute!... A slap sounds just like a clap...and so does a paddle striking an ass cheek! That means any electrically-powered toy can be turned on or off with well-timed swats!... Now what do I have that uses AC?..."

A wonderful, hand-held vibrator with a big, flying saucer-shaped head ...that's what! All I needed was "The Clapper." Twenty bucks and a quick trip to the hardware store later, and I was ready for a dry run.

The test was an unqualified success!

j thought she was in for a round of anal play when I innocently ordered her to position herself face down on the bed with legs spread. She turned inquisitive when I wedged the vibrator's large head between her thighs. I checked to make sure it was in direct contact with her clitoris before closing her legs and tying them together at the knees. Then I plugged the vibrator cord into the two-clap activation socket of The Clapper.

I landed a swat from my favorite leather slap paddle on each ass cheek.

"Yow!..Yow!..." Buzzzzzz!

My timing had been right on. The sound of the swats activated the vibrator. Not coincidentally, the vibrator activated j.

Slap, slap...ON! - Slap, slap...OFF!

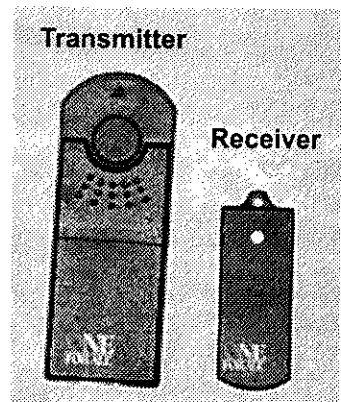
Keeping Control with The All for One Finder

by Edward J. Ganz

While wandering in my local Radio Shack, a new item caught my eye. It was a product called "THE FINDER". The sales pitch on the package boasted, "...no more aggravation and wasted time looking for lost items."

It is intended to be used to find lost keys, cordless phones and remote controls. I'm always misplacing my keys, so I bought one. On my way out to my car I thought to myself, "what do I misplace more often than my car keys?" I answered, "My submissive at a play party!"

It sells for \$19.95 plus tax, batteries included. It is a two piece set. One piece is the transmitter (2" X 5" X 1½"). The other is the receiver (1" X 3" X ¼") with a hole to attach to a key ring. When you press the button on the transmitter, the red light will come on telling you that the signal is being sent. The light will stay on until the receiver stops beeping, about five seconds. The unit has a range up to 40 feet.



At the next play party I put THE FINDER into play. I put the receiver on my submissive's collar and put the transmitter into a small fabric bag, so I was able to press the button without anyone being the wiser. The rules of the night's game were simple: she would stay out of sight until I beeped for her, she would come into my sight and see what service I needed, perform the task without asking what I needed, then disappear without ever uttering a word. I sat and talked with the other dominants and boasted about the wonderful bond I have with my submissive and how she saw to my every need. All evening long we were stared at. Nobody could figure out what we were up to and how we did it. The hardest part was keeping a straight face.

All this fun for less than \$20.00 ... and I haven't lost my keys since!

Little Sisters Wins Landmark Court Case Against Canada Customs

After a several year struggle to import and sell books and magazines of gay/lesbian, SM or general erotic/adult content, Little Sisters book sellers of Vancouver, BC has won the right to import whatever books and magazines they want and not have them seized at the border. The British Columbia Supreme court granted a sixmonth injunction and also awarded Little Sisters 75% of the court costs of the case.

The Little Sisters case demonstrated to citizens of the US and Canada just how prejudicial and haphazard the border Customs agents could be. News magazines such as *The Advocate* and individual books ranging from lesbian porn to cooking with chili peppers were seized, returned, and sometimes even destroyed by customs agents applying their own interpretations of Canada's McKinnin/Dworkin-inspired publishing restrictions. Gay and lesbian literature was especially targeted for seizure, often without any justification other than a title, a publisher's or author's name, or the store it was being shipped to. In a moment of ironic justice, a book by Andrea Dworkin herself made it onto the extensive list of books turned away at the border. But for readers of SM literature and non-fiction, the names of authors who have had books seized is much more meaningful. John Preston, Trish Thomas, Pat Califia, Laura Antoniou, Aaron Travis, and Larry Townsend have all appeared on lists of authors whose books were almost automatically refused entry into Canada.

In January, 1996 Little Sisters won a decision in the Canadian Courts over Canada Customs regarding the importation of a book published by Cleis Press of Pittsburgh, PA called **Forbidden Passages: Writing Banned in Canada**. It had been produced as a fundraiser for the court costs and to raise awareness of censorship on both sides of the border.

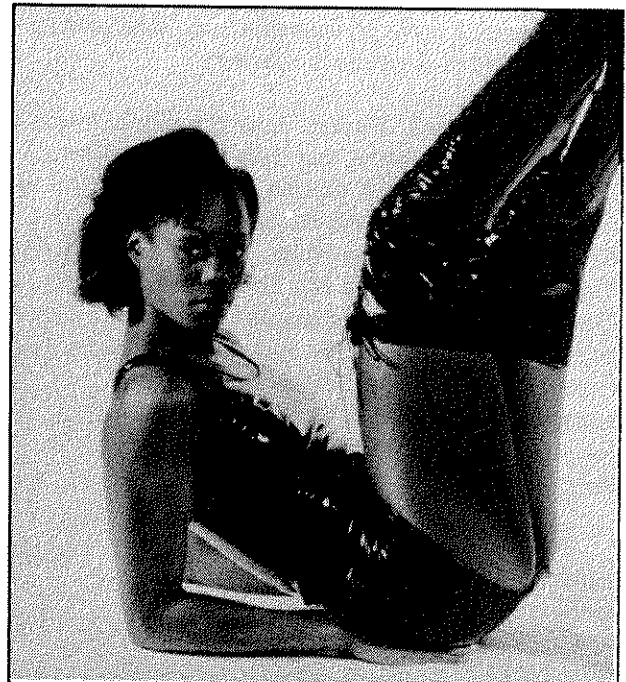
The B.C. Supreme Court decision said that Canada Customs censorship of books and other materials was evidence of a "grave systemic problem." The arbitrariness, inconsistency, and "often just plain foolishness" of Customs censorship could not be brushed aside by the government as "mere human error."

Janine Fuller, manager of Little Sisters, celebrated the decision as a "complete vindication.... It has been a long, hard climb. We haven't quite reached the summit but we're damn close." Fuller then returned to court on February 26 to seek an injunction against future border seizures and on March 29th she reached her summit!

As Publishers Weekly noted: "An attempt by Cleis Press to publish a volume protesting Canadian censorship (almost became) the victim of the Canadian government's controversial obscenity laws." Three Canadian printers and three Canadian distributors turned down the project for fear of government retribution. Finally a Canadian printer who wishes to remain unnamed agreed to print the book, and Marginal Distribution in Ontario agreed to distribute it. Marginal handles Canadian distribution for other publishers of culturally transgressive books.

In the U.S. **Forbidden Passages** is available from Publishers Group West, Ingram and most other wholesalers and features excerpts from the most prominent and provocative publications seized at the Canadian border, with forewords by Pat Califia and Janine Fuller of Little Sisters.

For word on what passes or gets turned away in Australia, turn the page!



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Censorship Down Under

by Ian Ballantyne

I have been prompted to write this because of some stories I have heard about censorship issues in the United States. Things such as a certain magazine being illegal to sell in one county but OK in an adjoining one, and one where it was an offense to sell a copy by mail order to a person in a particular county all because the recipient lived in that county! What incredible insanity! While this sort of thing would be quite limited, the fact that it actually happens is still quite amazing. Thankfully as an Australian I enjoy a somewhat different system that seems to work quite well.

In Australia we have a Commonwealth (federal) government body known as the "Office of Film and Literature Classification". Any printed matter such as books, magazines, posters and the like can be reviewed by the office and given a classification. The classification scheme is voluntary so only a percentage of publications are submitted to the office for classification. However, it will also review any publication about which a complaint is received. While the office is a Commonwealth body, participation in the scheme by the states and territories of Australia is voluntary.

At present, only Western Australia and Tasmania do not participate in the scheme, they have their own systems which I know little about. The scheme came to being because the Commonwealth government and the participating states (Queensland, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, South Australia and The Northern Territory) agreed that there should be a voluntary and uniform classification system for printed matter. The system also provides guidelines regarding the sale and display of items in each category. Each state and territory may legislate about restrictions for each classification if they so wish.

The guidelines reflect the mainly sexual nature of publications submitted and deal primarily with things such as the degree a nudity and explicitness of any sexual activity. They also cover issues such as violence (particularly sexual violence) and language.

Classification Principles

Adults in free society should be able to see, hear and read what they want provided there is sufficient protection for young people

and that those who might be offended are not exposed to unwanted and unsolicited adult material.

A classification should reflect what a reasonable adult would expect to find in a publication of the type intended for a chosen audience. Restricted categories advise the purchaser that the contents may be explicit and not to everyone's liking.

The Classifications And Their Guidelines

The office classifies literature under four main headings, Unrestricted, Category 1, Category 2, and Refused Classification.

UNRESTRICTED

No restriction applies to sale or display.

This category covers a wide range of material that may be suitable for all age groups but does not offend adults to the extent that it should be restricted. This category may also include material for mature readers that would not be recommended for children.

● Magazine Covers and Advertising Posters

Photographs must be suitable for display in public. They may depict discreet nudity if it is not overly sexually suggestive and does not imply sexual activity. Depictions of genitals, pubic hair, fetishes or fetish implications are not permitted.

Language should not be assaultive or sexually suggestive but some low level coarse language is acceptable. Sexually suggestive phrases or colloquialisms for sexual acts and genitals are not permitted.

● Contents

Photos of female and male genitals are acceptable but not if sexual excitement is apparent.

Depictions of sexual activity between consenting adults are acceptable only where they are discretely implied or simulated.

Illustrations, paintings, statues etc. which are considered bona fide erotic art works and depict explicit sexual activity or nudity may be acceptable if they are in an historical or cultural content.

Written descriptions of sexual activity between adults are acceptable in works of literature and in publications not primarily dedicated to sexual matters.

RESTRICTED CATEGORIES

A restricted category will apply to a publication considered not suitable for those under 18 years of age or who easily offend. The category given depends on the degree of explicitness of material in the publication.

RESTRICTED - CATEGORY 1

Sale restricted to persons 18 years of age and over and to be displayed in a non resale

Adults
in free society
should be able to

see, hear,
& read
what
they
want

able wrapper (usually plastic). Advertising posters cannot be classified Category 1.

- Magazine Covers
As for Unrestricted

- Contents

Photos may include explicit genital detail or obvious sexual excitement. They may also have implied, simulated, or obscured sexual activity between consenting adults and touching of genitals.

Mild fetish depictions such as rubber wear and stylised domination are acceptable.

Illustrations and paintings not considered bona fide erotic art works and depicting explicit sexual activity or nudity are included.

Photos of realistic and explicit violence or its aftermath may be accommodated in a publication that exploits violence, except sexually, or if extremely cruel or violent.

Exploitative novellas may contain explicit descriptions of sexual activity between consenting adults but not bestiality, incest, sexual activity with children, relished or detailed descriptions of gratuitous acts of cruelty, or detailed or unjustifiable descriptions of sexual violence against non-consenting adults.

Publications which contain exploitative, realistic and gratuitous descriptions of violence may be included in this category.

RESTRICTED - CATEGORY 2

Sale is restricted to people 18 years and older and is only to be displayed in premises restricted to people 18 years and older.

- Covers and Posters

As the publications are not displayed in public places, there is no restrictions on what may be displayed.

- Contents

Photos of sexual activity between consenting adults which include explicit genital detail.

Depictions of stronger fetishes are permitted but not if non consent or apparent physical harm are apparent.

Exploitative novellas may contain explicit descriptions of most kinds of sexual activity but not sexual activity involving children, relished or detailed descriptions of gratuitous acts of cruelty, or detailed or unjustifiable descriptions of sexual violence against non-consenting people.

REFUSED CLASSIFICATION

(Prohibited Publication)

Publications refused classification may not be sold or displayed.

Material which exploits children, promotes crime or violence, or would be considered so offensive to a reasonable adult that it should not be allowed is refused.

Photos of sexual activity involving children or of exploitative child nudity.

Publications which promote, incite or instruct in matters of crime or violence.

Photos of sexual activity between humans and animals.

Photos which depict extremely cruel or dangerous practices, especially those which show apparent harm to the participants.

Photos which show sexual violence against the consent of a participant. This also applies when non consent is established form any text accompanying the photos.

Books which promote, incite, encourage, or instruct in the manufacture or cultivation of prohibited drugs.

Exploitative novellas which include gratuitous descriptions of sexual activity involving children. This does not apply to works of genuine literary merit.

Exploitative novellas which contain relished or detailed descriptions of gratuitous acts of cruelty, or detailed or unjustifiable descriptions of sexual violence against non-consenting people. This does not apply to works of genuine literary merit.

So that's how the Australian system works. While it is a little restricted in some respects, it does provide a reasonable, fair and uniform way of classifying printed matter. It means retailers know exactly what they can and can't sell and Australian citizens know they can purchase product on mail order without fear of prosecution provided there is nothing fitting the refused category.

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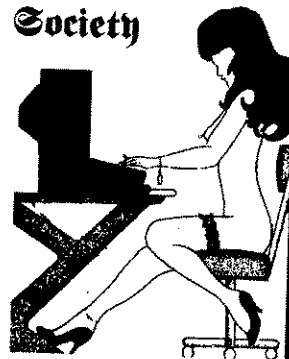
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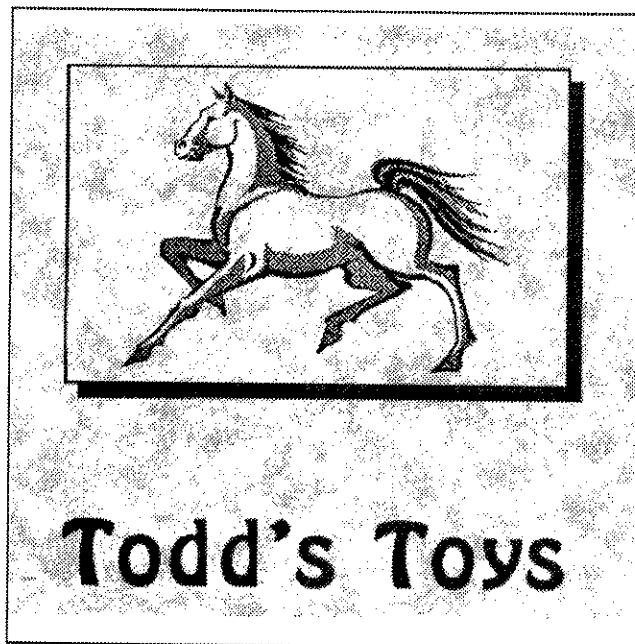
Born in Oklahoma City, raised in Kansas City, Todd now lives and braids *Todd's Toys* in the Columbus, Ohio area. He has had a love of whips and braiding almost all his life. *The Guardian* recently met and visited with this talented craftsman:

"My fascination with whips began as a young boy. My paternal Grandfather made a bullwhip for me and I cracked it 'til there wasn't much of a whip left to crack. I remember it was about seven or eight feet long, made of rawhide and had a cracker made out of baling twine. My Grandfather raised cattle in western Oklahoma, and occasionally slaughtered his own beef, so the rawhide was easy to come by. He acquainted me with the basics of braiding, both flat and round work and the peculiarities of rawhide.

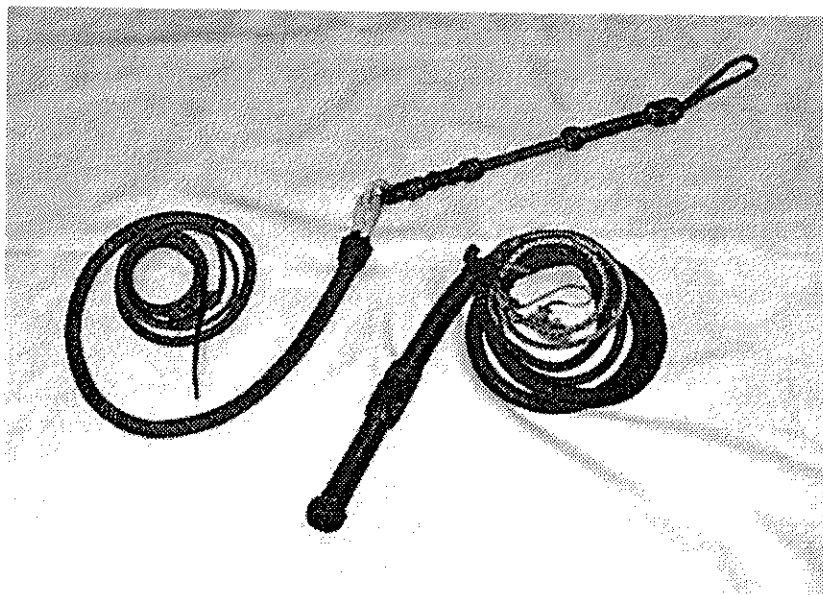
"As I grew older, I left all that behind me and it wasn't until I joined the Navy that I became interested in braiding and knotwork again. I learned about several kinds of decorative knots from some of the deckhands on board the ship. Many of these I now incorporate into the pieces I make today. After four years, I left the Navy, met and married the woman of my dreams and settled down. We had a daughter and moved to Ohio, where I currently reside.

"My daughter developed a strong affection for horseback riding and I developed a strong affection for saving money! So I started to make horse tack, using the braiding skills I had developed years before. I made reins, bridles, headstalls, quirts, crops and other various pieces of common horse tack.

"A few years ago I made the acquaintance of a few people in the leather scene via a Computer BBS They



invited me to a meeting where they were discussing the lifestyle. The guest speaker at this meeting was a local whipmaker who displayed various whips and toys of his making and explained the proper usage and care of them. I realized that I could make most of the things there. Everyone there wanted one!



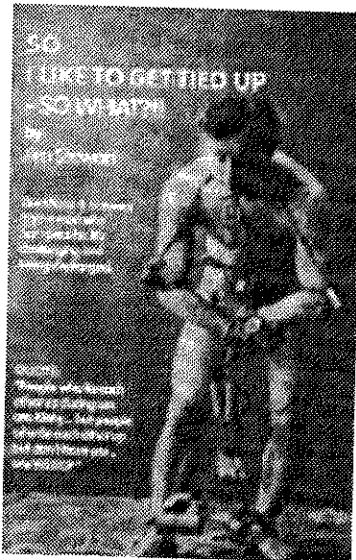
"Since then, I have been making all kinds of toys. But my favorite toy is still the bullwhip. I try to make as many of them as time will allow. To me they epitomize the braider's artform. Many do not realize what goes into making a good bullwhip.

Fetters' Mastermind Chats About Bondage

SO I LIKE TO GET TIED UP — SO WHAT?!!

by Jim Stewart

This is a book about a man's lifelong fascination, a competitive non-sexual bondage-and-escape activity which, for want of a better word, might be called Houdinism. From youthful experiments, (abandoned in the teen years when too many of the participants became aware of "Kink" as something to be avoided) Mr.



Stewart goes on to describe being lashed to a stretcher by a Mountain Rescue Team, tied between ladders, and otherwise overpowered and restrained by Soldiers, Lorry Drivers, Police, Firemen Mountain Climbers ... and a packing clerk. Just because there's no overt sex doesn't mean that he isn't appreciative of the underlying eroticism of these adventures — even if a great many of his partners are oblivious to it.

Starting with a bit of autobiographical detail, and having provided a frame of reference for those unfamiliar with and "not-necessarily-approving" of this sort of thing, he continues providing information on this rough and ready sport from familiar fetishes and techniques to advanced-level abductions and confinements.

The purpose of this book, as taken from the frontispiece is "TO INFORM RATHER THAN TO PERSUADE, CLARIFY RATHER THAN CONVINCE, INDICATE ALTERNATIVES RATHER THAN RECOMMEND," and within these self-imposed limits it is quite successful. There is much good information and food for thought in this thin volume.

American readers accustomed to being spoon-fed detailed explanations with diagrams and OSHA-type warnings on every second page, may have difficulty extracting all this book has to offer. However, it is worth the effort. For example, the passage that reveals how an escape artist uses his "captors'" psychological vulnerabilities to win the essential little bit of slack needed for escape is less than a paragraph long. Portions of this book need and deserve, more than one reading.

British edition published by Fetters International Publications, in association with Pike Street Press, Seattle WA. If your favorite alternative bookseller doesn't list this title, you can contact Mr. Stewart via Fetters USA at Mr. S Inc, 310 Seventh St, San Francisco, CA 94103 (415) 863-7764.

Continued from page 34

"I have tried many types of materials, from Latigo to kidskin, rawhide to kangaroo lace. Some worked well, some worked better, some didn't make satisfactory whips at all! But one common theme permeates my work, I never make the same thing twice! Every piece I have made to date is different from the others in one way or another.

"I also believe in function over form, though I do think of them as artwork. I try to incorporate attractive braidwork and knots on all of my toys and still maintain the piece's utility. The self-imposed restriction of not

duplicating my pieces does cause me some problems though. I have to keep finding new knots and braids to incorporate without compromising the function of the whip.

"Whip making is a dying artform, there just aren't many out there making them anymore. I am happy to be carrying on the tradition, and I am glad there are so many out there that appreciate the craft and its end product."

Todd's Toys, POB 340621, Columbus, OH 43234

And be sure to tell him you saw it in *The Guardian*!

LEGAL WATERS MUDDIED BY APPEAL COURT DECISION

by Val Langmuir, spokesman for
Countdown on Spanner

BACKGROUND

In May 1995, at Doncaster Crown Court, Alan Thomas Wilson was convicted under Section 47 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, of assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH). His "crime" had been to brand his initials on his wife's buttocks using a hot knife, at her request. He had been charged when his wife's doctor went to the police after seeing the brand. In the court, Judge Crabtree directed the jury that they were bound to convict, based on the case law established in *R v Brown* (the "Spanner" case) where it was ruled

Lord Justice Russell said
"Sexual activity between
husband and wife in the
privacy of the home is not a
matter for criminal
investigation, let alone
criminal prosecution."

that "the satisfaction of a sadomasochistic libido" did not provide for consent as a valid defence against a charge of ABH.

APPEAL COURT JUDGEMENT

On 29 February 1996 Wilson's conviction was quashed in the Court of Appeal. The Appeal Court Judges decided that whereas in *Brown*, the appellants had engaged in "sado-masochism of the grossest kind involving ... torture", the current case concerned "the acquisition of a desirable piece of physical adornment". Lord Justice Russell, one of the three Judges, said: "We don't think we are entitled to assume the method adopted by the appellant and his wife was any more dangerous and painful than tattooing".

The judges unanimously declared that Wilson should never have stood trial. Lord Justice Russell said "Sexual activity between husband and wife in the privacy of the home is not a matter for criminal investigation, let alone criminal prosecution." The proceedings should never have been brought and "had served no useful purpose".

The Crown Prosecution Service may appeal the decision on a point of law. Mr Wilson's acquittal would not be affected.

Countdown on Spanner welcomes the Appeal Court decision to acquit Wilson, and hopes that justice will also be served for Tony Brown and Roland Jaggard and the late Colin Laskey (the Spanner men) when they take their case to the European Court of Human Rights later this year, asking for the "right to a private life" enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights, a right which, for Mr and Mrs Wilson, was recognised by the Appeal Court.

It could be argued that the earlier ruling in *Brown* was influenced by homophobia. After all, this earlier case, where the appellants were convicted despite no-one having made a complaint or needing medical attention, concerned a group of gay men, and the current case (*Wilson*) concerned a married couple.

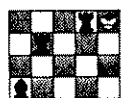
Whatever we may think about the motives of the judges, the latest Appeal Court decision certainly muddies the legal waters in the UK. With the *Brown* case going to the European Court of Human Rights later this year, the UK Government will have to justify that earlier ruling in the light of this more recent one.

Countdown on Spanner
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Coming Out, continued from page 15

thinking that they themselves are involved in BDSM. If they can do it anonymously, they are more likely to reveal your secrets.

Remember, even if a person knows you're into BDSM, they have to prove it to do you serious harm (i.e. get your children seized, get you fired). A good safety precaution is to make that as difficult as possible. Many people use scene names to protect their anonymity, especially if they write for BDSM journals. You want to be in a position to look your accuser straight in the eye and say, "That's not us, that must be some other Carolyn and Steve."

We don't want you to run out immediately after reading this article and tell all your friends. Think about it. Judge your friends and decide on who would be the best person to tell. Then tell one person. That's it. Just one. See how it feels. If it feels right, you may be ready to tell another. Do it thoughtfully and carefully. By selectively and carefully letting people know about your BDSM life you will reduce the chances of suffering dire consequences while at the same time enjoy the benefits of an honest and well-lived life.

Steve and Carolyn have been actively involved in BDSM for over a decade and have been telling people, with mixed results, for about that period of time.

(Ed. Note: On page 17, read what happened to one couple with children who were "turned in" by a supposed "friend.." As of this writing, their children are still in foster care and they are still fighting for them.)

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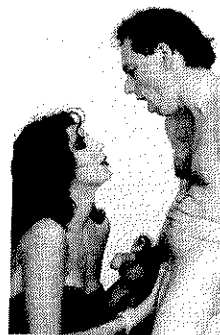
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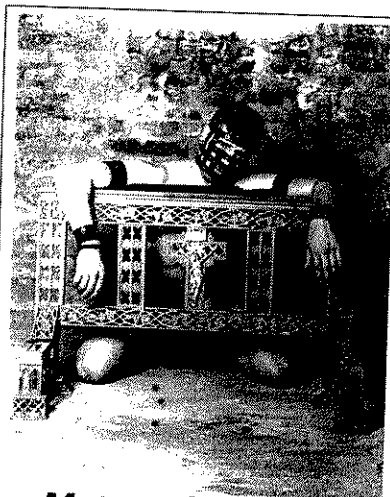


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Ritual Flagellation

by *Mystique*

Reprinted from Redemption Magazine, Vancouver, BC Issue #13, Summer 1995, with permission

Flagellation, or scourging (a term preferred by most magicians), has been used in society for thousands of years and long before it was used for purposes of punishment, it had an entirely different usage.

Scourging was a common occurrence amongst priests, priestesses and other magickal practitioners since Ancient Egypt and Ancient Greece. Ritual scourging was utilized for two different purposes in ceremonies. The first is to induce a trance-like state and the second as a symbolic cleansing.

One of the eight methods magicians have used (and still use today) to bring about an altered state of consciousness (alpha) is through scourging. In this state, the physical body becomes somewhat numb (a good magician can enter a state where he/she has no physical awareness whatsoever) and the conscious mind is stilled. This allows the subconscious, to become the predominant force in the magician's psyche. One's higher self is forever intertwined with the Universal Energy which must be effected if successful magick is to be performed. The types of magick traditionally practised with flagellation include: clairvoyance (past, present and future), astral projection (leaving the body), and travelling to other dimensions.

It has been recognized that a scourging of the magician by another will induce the state of altered consciousness required for magick. The scourging should be light, steady, slow and monotonous, to allow the recipient of the scourging to see what is happening. This continuous scourging draws the blood away from the brain to other parts of the body, and it is the blood vacating the brain that will induce the trance-like state necessary. In some rituals, some minor binding of the recipient, which slows down the blood circulation, is also performed to increase the effects of the scourging. Flagellation is ceased once the magician has entered his/her altered state of (the one performing the scourging should know what to look for in the recipient to know when to stop). The continuous strokes of the scourge also act much like the beating of a drum in Indian rituals — constancy has long been known to have a drowsy, numbing effect on people (remember those Calculus lectures in school? — maybe not.) A magician should not be discouraged if he/she does not see results in the first few attempts. Like meditation, this is something that must be performed several times before a difference is noticed and success is achieved.

In the East, retarding the flow of blood to arouse a trance-like state is much more torturous and involves sitting in a cramped position for an extended period of time, fasting and



flagellation until blood is spilled. Nuns and monks have also, in the past, used these techniques in the hope of being granted visions from God. However, as time went on, and flagellation was used for punishment, monks were known to

scourge themselves every time they felt they had committed a sin in God's eyes. This scourging of oneself was in effect, a form of ritual cleansing to these monks.

In Pagan initiation rituals, the Initiate must endure a specific number of strokes of the scourge (which has eight tails and five knots in each tail) from the Initiator. This is done primarily for the symbolic purification of the Initiate, as the Initiate must be mentally, physical ly and spiritually cleansed prior to the taking of the oaths and dedication that follow. Oaths taken in a purified state are more momentous than if they were taken in a state of preoccupation or if the Initiate was sullied by any negative psychic energy.

Scourging in Pagan rituals is not a symbolic representation that the Initiate is willing to suffer to learn, as some neo-pagans believe. Suffering does come naturally with learning, it need not be accentuated with some symbolic representation. However, in some rituals (in the past, amongst the Knights Templar), there is an exchange of scourging between two magicians (usually the Initiate and Initiator) to symbolically represent the law of Karma (the Universal law of cause and effect) and that whatever is given out also returns.

Practising magick should not be an excuse to indulge in sadomasochistic activity. Pain is never a part of the magickal rituals as it would only detract from the desired effect (that being reaching a higher state of consciousness). If you wish to combine physical pain and religion, I suggest joining the Catholic church or becoming a monk! And if you are both a magician and SM practitioner, keep the two separate — you'll have better results for both !

Reforming the Bawdy House Act

An outdated Canadian morality law is being used to make criminals of people with both mainstream and alternative lifestyles.

This law — the section of the Criminal Code referred to as the *Bawdy House Law* — has been dusted off and is now being used arbitrarily by police and Crown Attorneys, even though the Canadian Government's own Fraser Report recommended scrapping this archaic law more than a decade ago.

Ordinary people are now seeing their homes invaded by police. The private homes of professional Dominants are being raided and destroyed, and personal property is being confiscated — even when no complaints have been made. Law abiding, tax-paying Canadians are being forced to choose, either to parade their sexual lifestyles in open court or to quietly plead guilty to victimless crimes.

In these days of cutbacks, do you think police should be laying Bawdy House charges when they could be chasing the real criminals who threaten our lives and property?

THE PROBLEM WITH THE BAWDY HOUSE ACT

The law defines a bawdy house as any place used for prostitution or acts of indecency. Not only is it a crime to operate a bawdy house, it is also a crime to simply be *found* in a bawdy house.

The problem is that "acts of indecency" are not defined in the Criminal Code, leaving the police and Crown Attorneys free to impose their own definition of morality, even when no sex is involved and no money is exchanged. That makes everyone with an alternative lifestyle a potential criminal in the eyes of the law.

COALITION TO REFORM BAWDY HOUSE ACT

The coalition so far is composed of The National Leather Association: Toronto Chapter, Fetish Night Hostess Madam X, Mr. Leatherman Toronto Duncan MacLachlan, Cara Gillies from Maggie's, and *Boudoir Noir Magazine*. We have asked members of the leather and gay communities to write to their MP's and Minister of Justice Allen Rock asking them to revisit the recommendations of their own Fraser Report.

Specifically, the Fraser Report recommended A) relaxing Section 1, defining a bawdy house as a place used for acts of prostitution, and allowing one or two sex workers to work in

their homes rather than on the streets (alleviating the problem of street prostitution); and B) eliminating Section 2, defining a bawdy house as a place used for acts of indecency (eliminating the threat to people for simply having alternative lifestyles).

Alternative lifestyleers of all gender preferences in Toronto are fearful. Right now, private parties and "Fetish Nights" in Canada qualify as "bawdy houses," according to the interpretation used by law enforcement agencies. No one is safe.

The public and private support of credible organizations and individuals will be very helpful to this grassroots effort to return sanity to our legal process.

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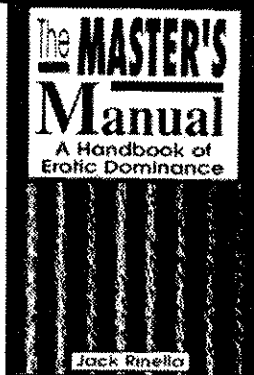
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Reviews

The Master's Manual: A Handbook of Erotic Dominance

by Jack Rinella

Published by Daedalus Publishing



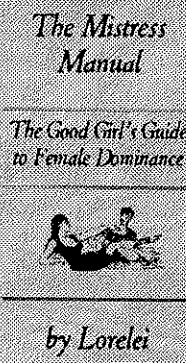
Jack Rinella is a familiar name in the gay leather community. His columns in *Gay Chicago Magazine*, as well as other places, helped define what leather is for many men and women in the scene. Much of **The Master's Manual** is taken from these columns and other articles previously published, put together in a somewhat organized fashion.

In his introduction, Rinella promises practical advice and "do-able" suggestions. I took this to mean some specific information on technique, but found very little in the pages following. Most of the book is more emotive and psychological than technical. "There are two qualities that make leatherman," says Rinella, "proper technique and the right attitude." Other than telling us that learning from those who came before us is a useful tool, Rinella does little to emphasize the first of these qualities.

In fact, I found **The Master's Manual** to read like a series of titleholder speeches. "If leather is the beat of a different drum then it is my drum that I hear, uniquely in tune for me," says Rinella. "Listen to your own drum beat. It is a rhythm that will free your soul." Great sentiment. And it's not the first time I've heard it. Further development on the whys, hows, and wheres to discover more about leather, other than looking deep within myself, would have been valuable.

There are some marvelous diversions in this book. I did appreciate Chapter 12, "Leather Lit 101." Although my list of leather/kinky books is much longer, this is a great list of gay and gay-related leather erotica close to my heart, and a great list for those looking for related information and hot porn.

Rinella also promises to keep his book from focusing primarily on the gay male leather scene, but fails in truly incorporating non-gay male language. I would have rather that he



The Mistress Manual: The Good Girl's Guide to Female Dominance

by Lorelei

Published by Berkana Press

speak from what he knows, and suggest that those outside that group take the information and reformat it for themselves.

Unlike Rinella's book, the **Mistress Manual** announces in its introduction that the book will focus on heterosexual Female Dominance, and had some very "hands-on" information on a variety of topics, from costuming to disciplinary instruments, to language.

I found myself truly enjoying some of the very real consciousness-raising moments in this book. The first section, "Becoming A Mistress," addresses many cultural stereotypes facing women today. "As a Mistress," says Lorelei, "you will be able to command the respect you may not otherwise receive, because this sick culture devalues the Female and exalts the male." The section discusses a number of very real feelings women may have about dominance. My favorite very real example is the fear some women may have in not being able to respect a man they can dominate.

"The modern ideal of manhood is based on . . . the machine gun," Lorelei suggests. "The submissive male's ideal of manhood is the medieval ideal, a man sworn to serve and protect an all-powerful Lady; he is proud to wear her favor, to show the world the Woman to whom he owes allegiance, love, and service. Though he can fight, he can also love. He is not ashamed of his emotions or his spirituality. He is both a poet and a knight, a complete human being. And he longs with all his heart to serve his Mistress."

The book is structured very coherently; beginning with "Becoming a Mistress." Part II is "The Mistress in Action," including a long chapter on "The Art of Discipline," which includes an amusing chart on the types of punishment instruments cross-referenced by severity, position, tips for use, and

Reviewed by Karen Taylor

At first glance, it might seem these books would be perfect next to each other on your leather bookshelf, balancing each other's energy and information.

Not so.

While each has something to offer to their particular audience, they do not have much in common, nor will they speak comfortably to the same readers.

suitable fantasy scenes in which to use them. "The Skills of a Mistress" section, discussing other methods of controlling a submissive, from bondage to enemas, is amusing and instructive reading.

Unfortunately, Lorelei's outlook narrows many of her views, particularly in the variety of ways dominant women can perceive themselves and create play. She types Female Doms into five basic categories: the Nursemaid, Governess, Queen, Goddess, and Amazon. She also describes the Female Domination scene in very narrow terms: (1) establishing authority; (2) transgression; (3) punishment, and (4) comfort/satisfaction. As a person who doesn't play punishment scenarios, I found this very restrictive. But it does provide a simple plot around which to create a story.

Despite these very real drawbacks, Lorelei's style and humor continued to win me over. Many of her comments about the very real sexist world in which we live were right on, without being preachy or whiney. And for any reader with a sense of imagination, this book provides a foundation from which to create their own definitions of female domination.

More reviews next page!

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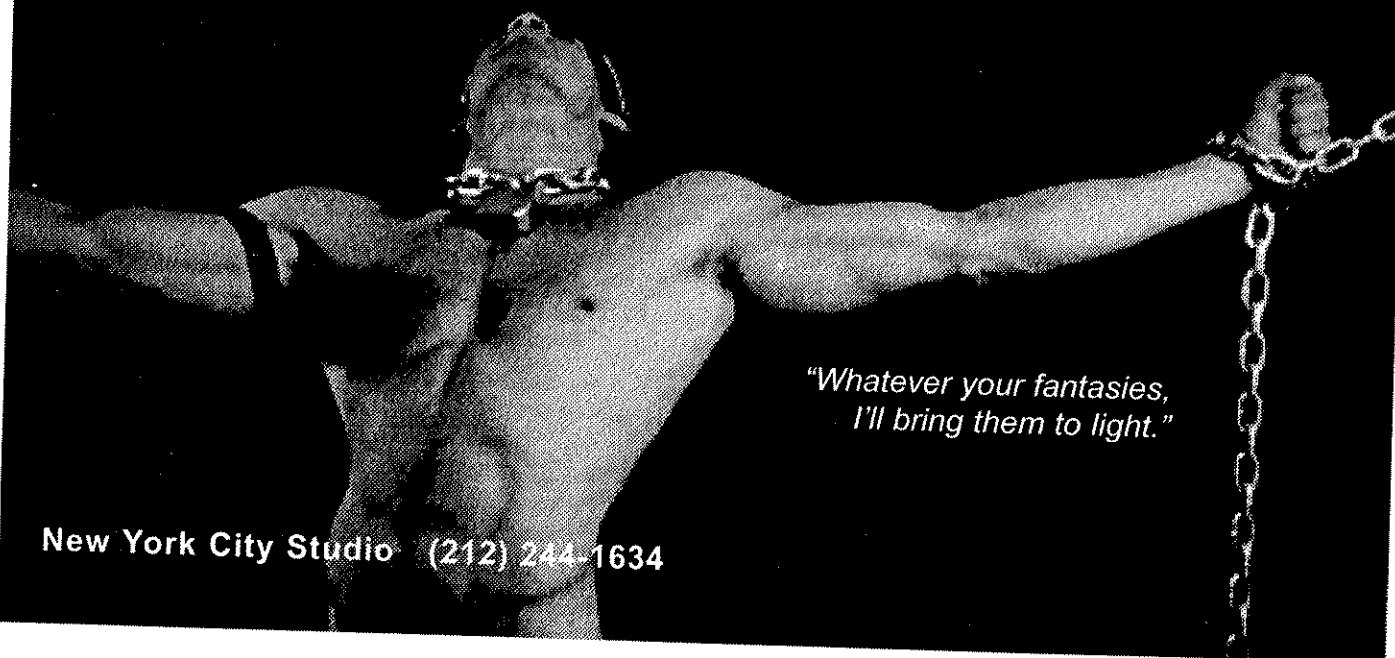
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The Kiss of the Whip: Explorations in SM

by Jim Prezwalski

Leyland Publications, San Francisco, CA

Reviewed by Stephen

The *Kiss of the Whip*, by Jim Prezwalski, is a welcome addition to the growing collection of SM instructional texts. It was written by a gay man primarily for gay men interested in SM. (As an example of this, there is a large section on anal fisting, but no information on vaginal fisting at all.) Nonetheless, it contains information that could benefit SM enthusiasts of all orientations.

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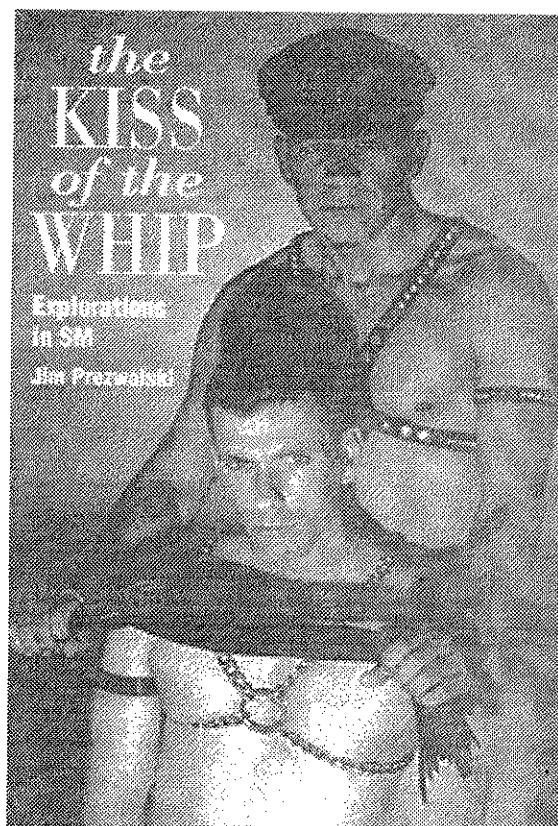
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The author covers the field of gay SM systematically. He starts with a history of leather culture in the United States, and then follows the process of a person finding his first scene, from definitions and self awareness, through negotiation, to discussions of a variety of techniques.

Possible disease problems are described well, with a specific chapter for AIDS. Also discussed are common drugs in current usage and their possible effects on a player. The author is occasionally overly parental about safety and sobriety issues (and in fact does so while introducing the section on drugs, quoting a university president saying, "We also teach cancer, but do not advocate it.") Still, the inclusion of this section is particularly praiseworthy in an age where drug use in-scene is politely forgotten in public discourse.

The most impressive feature of this book is the personal stories that are interspersed throughout the text. Not the author's experiences, but those of dozens of different leather-folk, men and women, straight and gay, are recorded here in their own words. I found breaking up the text with personal stories made the book easier to read and made it less dry than some texts on the subject.

This is a worthwhile addition to anyone's SM library, and for people who do not have access to a "community" where they are, the collection of a variety of stories and viewpoints makes the book worth the time and money even more.

Watersports, continued from page 20

I can only tell you what worked for me. Pick an intimate but relaxed moment. Don't pressure, and don't beg. Tell your lover that you love everything about his or her lingam or yoni — that everything it does excites you. Even the water that pours from it excites you. It excites you because of the person it comes from. Suggest that perhaps someday you'd like to get closer to it — to touch it or maybe even taste it. And phrase it that way — perhaps someday.

Still, your lover may need time to get used to the idea. Allow as much time as it takes.

What About the Smell? (Dilution)

You can control the degree to which your urine smells by controlling its concentration. Dilute urine smells less than concentrated urine. Very dilute urine has virtually no smell (or taste) at all. If you have a lot of minerals in your tap water and your partner has been drinking something with a good mineral balance, like fruit juice, you may even find that dilute urine has a more pleasant taste than your tap water.

One strategy for more appealing pee is to consume less of what makes it smell. Much of the odor and color of urine comes from the byproducts of protein metabolism. If you cut down on foods with high protein content, you reduce the odor. Some foods, asparagus for example, add their own odors to urine, so you might want to avoid them as well.

If that seems like too much self-deprivation, concentrate on dilution. Most people can drink a lot of fluids without ill effects. Consider timing your drinking and lovemaking with your daily rhythms. Avoid strenuous activity or spending time in the hot sun (i.e. avoid sweating) in the hours before your lovemaking. Also avoid salt in those hours.

On the question of caffeine and alcohol, both are mild diuretics with well-known mental and physical negative side effects. *(Ed. Note: Though not documented, there could be a concern as to whether trace quantities of alcohol or its by-products could in some instances trigger relapse in a Recovering Alcoholic.)*

And how much fluid should you drink? I like to drink a lot and have my lover do the same. During lovemaking, I don't want to worry about fluid economy. I want to feel free to let it out whenever the fancy strikes me, knowing that more is soon to come. If you consume three liters (about 96 ounces), you will begin to feel the urge in about 45 minutes, and thereafter every 15 to

20 minutes for several hours. That, of course, is a lot to drink all at once. So instead, drink 12 ounces every 5 or 10 minutes. And once things begin to flow, you can continue drinking during your lovemaking hours to prolong the fun.

If you drink this much fluid, your urine will smell and taste like water, though it will retain some of the flavor of what every you are drinking.

One final note. Don't use any strong diuretic drugs as part of your sex play. They can make you feel dried out and uncomfortable. *(Ed. Note: In addition to dehydration, excessive use of strong diuretics can produce electrolyte imbalance. Either of these conditions can be potentially health-threatening.)*

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What About the Mess?

Now that you know how harmless your body's fountain is, the only thing left to say against wet loving is that when it's over, it's not really over. You're still left with a mess to clean up.

The easiest response to this is simply to restrict yourself to activities that don't leave a mess. These would include things you do in the shower or bath, in the privacy of your own swimming pool deck, or when you find yourselves on a deserted beach or lakeshore. In these situations, you can get naked, have a fun time, wash off, get dressed, and let nature or household plumbing dispose of what you've produced.

But if between the two of you, your lovemaking is going to leave six liters of liquid in your mattress, you might think twice before turning on the tap in bed.

However, with the help of plastic bags, bargain store shower curtains and cloth towels you can have your fun and still sleep in a dry bed. And be sure to have another set of dry sheets and pillow cases handy for when you are done. Also, keep a few plastic garbage bags handy for toting wet laundry later on.

Two Tips

I have found that the ideal temperature for water-sports is in the neighborhood of 80 degrees F (27 C).

If you use any electrical aids (vibrators and the like), make sure they are intended for sexplay. They are likely to get just as wet as everything else. Use battery powered equipment *exclusively* — never any that gets its juice from the wall.

Some Favorite Things

So you want to know what fun things you can do using your lingams and yonis as water toys. Here are some activities you can do in bed/at home. All of them work best if your kidneys have plenty to work with, so drink up first. Note also that males may have to ejaculate once before their sexual tension relaxes enough for their streams flow freely.

Playing Doctor

Simply sit facing each other with legs apart. When either of you gets the urge, simply pee. The other gets to watch and

**I know that many
men have a
Samson complex
about their
pubic hair, but
consider (shaving) it
anyway.**

**The skin over your
pubic bone is
deliciously sensitive,
and you will only feel
the wonderment
directly
if you are shaven.**

touch. Pretending you're both children again adds a fun twist to this game.

Wet Massage

You will need some KY jelly or equivalent for this. Have your lover lie face down (or face up if you want to massage the front) on the bed. Kneel straddling your lover. Smear a little water based lubricant on your hands. Now pee onto your lover's back and begin rubbing it in. Add more lube as needed to keep everything slippery (you may not need that much since your pee is naturally more slippery than water). Be mobile. Work your stream up and down your lover's back and neck, and over your lover's buns. Use your lover's favorite massage techniques.

Wet Cuddles

Just wetting the bed is exciting the first time you do it on purpose. Doing it while you and your lover are cuddling is a special delight. Unlike some sex acts, naked cuddling is something you can keep up for a long time and be relaxed the whole time. Spoon-style cuddling, is best suited for enjoying wetness. Just lie there together, and whenever one or both of you feels the urge, let it flow.

For the more adventurous, try lying on your sides, facing each other sixty-nine style. Each of you cuddles and nuzzles the other's genitals. Again, whenever your bladder sends you the signal, relax and respond to it. Whenever your lover's stream splashes on your face, enjoy it and nuzzle even more.

Golden Shower

This is simply where one partner kneels, sit, or lies down and the other pees all over him or her. Again, either position is enjoyable. *If you like dominance and submission fantasies, this activity plays into them nicely.* It's also fun to kiss your lover's lingam or yoni on the spot where the cascade emerges.

A Pissing Contest

Just for laughs (and why should love be unfunny?), try competing with your lover for distance, height, or accuracy.

Baby Gets Clean

This is best done in the bathtub. One of you takes the role of parent, the other the role of baby. Parent scrubs baby with soap using his or her own fluids for water. If the baby is completely uninhibited and the parent has enough fluid, the parent washes the baby all over, including head and face (watch out for soap in the eyes). When the scrubbing is done, use the shower to rinse off.

Cateracts of the Nile

A woman lies on her back with legs apart. Her partner stands or kneels between her thighs, and then pees as hard as he or she can, directing the stream onto the woman's clitoris. She then simply enjoys, touching her yoni if she likes. You will probably want to experiment with standing or kneeling, as different women will have different preferences about how high the stream should come from.

Log in the Amazon

A man (or a woman wearing a dildo) lies on their back. The partner squats over the phallus. When the bottom partner is wonderfully aroused, the one on top pees hard, moving the stream up and down the length of the shaft.

A note here: Many find that, as the recipient in either of the last two activities, the intensity is greater if they have first shaved their pubic hair. I know that many men have a Samson complex about their pubic hair, but consider it anyway. The skin over your pubic bone is deliciously sensitive, and you will only feel the wonderment directly if you are shaven. As an aside, if you both shave, face to face intercourse has additional sensations that you cannot achieve otherwise. And if you find you don't like it shaved, it grows right back.

The Fountain of Venus

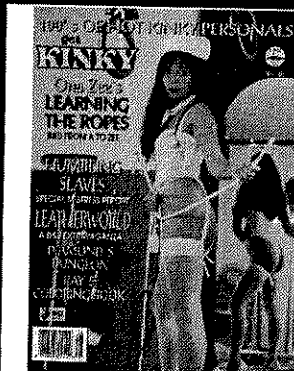
There are several positional variations of this one. I'll describe the easiest and you can take it from there. The woman waits until her bladder reaches the limits of comfort. She then lies on her back with her legs apart. Her partner kneels or lies between her thighs facing her yoni and then begin licking her yoni in the usual way.

The woman should hold back her stream until Eve's rapture engulfs her. At that point, many women have no choice and will let go involuntarily. Her partner should keep licking, enjoying the sound of her sighs and the sensation of her yoni gushing onto the tongue, and perhaps drinking some. The woman should keep peeing until she is empty, allowing herself to come whenever she feels moved to do so. Some women claim this is the most intense orgasm they have ever had.

Fantasies

Make up some fantasies about what you are doing. My favorite is that I am a king threatened with assassination. I am so fearful of being poisoned that I will drink nothing that hasn't been filtered through my servant first. Of course, it's most fun to drink right from the tap. But I can't hope to make up fantasies for you that will be better than your own. Use your imagination!

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Samurai, continued from page 24

A samurai bottom should be willing to be used in whatever manner their lord wishes, but a wise lord will use them well. It is important to note that the tradition carries a strong sense of pride, so although that although a samurai bottom will certainly be a footstool if that's what their top wants, it is probably best not to casually use such an arrangement in public, where they may be shamed by it. Not by the act itself, mind you, but by other people's perception of the act. Another important distinction.

The punishment of a samurai is a serious matter. Every kind of punishment is embarrassing, a blow to pride and to their status. There is much more advice to lords on how and when to discipline their retainers than to retainers about how to take it. (With dignity, son, with dignity.)

In a samurai gathering, should a lord grow angry and wish to humiliate his retainer, the dignity of that retainer while being rebuked or punished will be seen with pleasure. (Whereas a show of cowardice would be utterly embarrassing.) But in front of people who might think that your proud warrior was indeed a slave whose use was most appropriate as a footstool, such a command would demean the bottom and, by extension, the lord who ordered such a thing.

Samurai bottoms will always be looking for ways to be useful to their tops in public, behaving much like military orderlies, a companion with whom one does not chat or joke, an aide who is always ready with the coat, the door, the lighter, drink, or car. They will be instantly obedient to the oddest requests, and generally avoid distraction. And after an evening of service, the samurai will be grateful for having been given the chance to serve, and should not expect rewards, although a reward might be forthcoming. Hojo Shigetoki says:

When one is serving officially. . . he should not think of a hundred people, or a thousand people, but only the importance of the master. . . To think of receiving the blessings of the master without fulfilling (one's) duties is no different from trying to cross a rough sea without a boat.

To sum up: a samurai bottom serves with pride and dignity, offering authentic service to a person who is deserving of it. They will seek out positions of honor through being useful, quick, even-tempered, polite, and strong. They may expect to be improved by their service, to be challenged by it, and that

they will be treated fairly and with respect.

They may also expect to learn how to top, whether that means the actual physical skills or the emotional and mental patterns which allow a person to be respected and followed. That is why I have also included the following section.

Samurai Top - Beyond Shogun

Many Japanese leaders, in their advice to heirs and other important members of their clans, provide excellent guidance for the would be samurai top. For example:

"A leader with intelligence and a firm heart will be able to put others to use. people's ways are variant, and to use one to whom one has taken a liking for all things — for example, to use a military man for literary matters, or a man untalented in speech as a messenger, or a slow witted man where a quick wit is necessary — may bring about failure. . ." - Shiba Yoshimasa

This seems like common sense, yet it responds directly to a frequent situation in SM relationships, where a top tries to mold a bottom to a role or task where they are not suited.

The samurai top, knowing that their resources are limited and should be used to maximize their utility, will not waste time making a pet out of a warrior or a bodyguard out of a cook.

The samurai top is responsible for caring for the retainers in many ways, and their appearance and behavior reflect back onto their lord. That is why Imagawa Sadayo noted in his regulations:

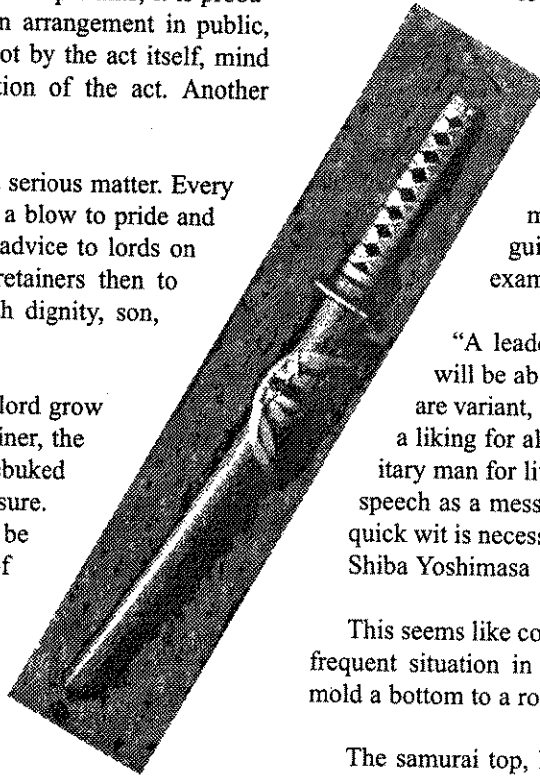
It is forbidden to be excessive in one's own clothing and armor while one's retainers go about shabbily.

But he was also careful about how he treated his retainers in matters of justice:

It is forbidden to be indiscriminate of one's retainers good and evil actions and to distribute unjust rewards and punishments.

None of this "making up a reason to punish you" stuff for the samurai top. Punishments are punishments and rewards are rewards.

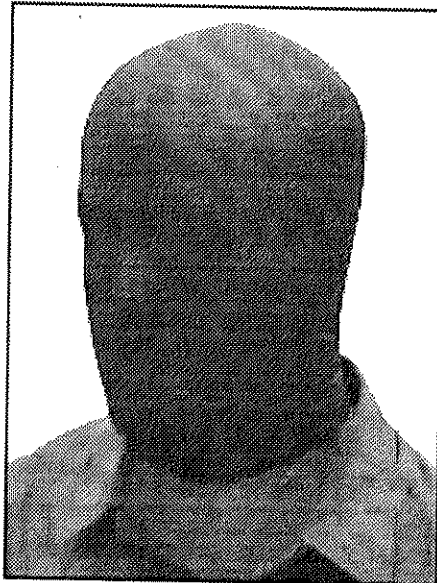
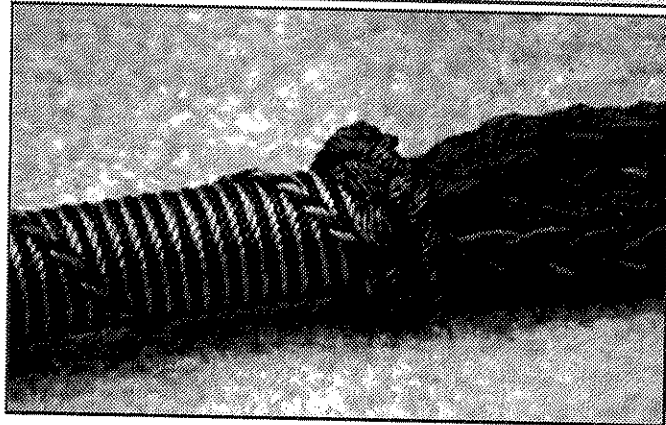
Continued on page 48



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In theory, everything which belongs to the retainer belongs to their master, but the sages are strong in reminding future masters that they should never take advantage of this right. Asakura Soteki says:

A master should not unreasonably make requests for the possessions of his retainers, such as their horses and falcons, or their swords. . . paintings. . . (etc.). Generally speaking, for retainers to possess valuable articles is the same as if their master possessed them. If in spite of that, however, the master still desires something, he should offer double its appropriate price. . .

This reinforces the idea that the retainer has responsibilities and a life of their own. (And, incidentally, attracts a better class of retainers, who will collect such possessions and keep them in the clan for future generations.)

It is imperative that the samurai top be respected by the retainer; fear or worship would not be acceptable substitutions. In fact, almost all the leaders agree that one should worship the god(s)/Buddhas (depending on the age), and revere one's parents, but show abiding loyalty and respect toward one's lord. Soteki adds,

"It is not good to be feared by one's own retainers. . . It is fundamental to value one's retainers deep devotion."

Perhaps Kuroda Nagamasa had the most to say about the correct behavior of a leader. In his own Regulations, he describes what authority is and isn't:

Generally speaking, the master. . . should discharge his duties with love and humanity, should not listen to slander, and should exercise the good. . . When one understands "authority" to mean taking an attitude of intimidation toward everyone, acting in a high-blown manner even when meeting with the clan elders, using rough words for matters of no consequence at all, refusing to listen to the admonitions of others, persevering in one's own mistakes, and forcibly shoving through one's own opinions. . . he will likely be pulled along (a destructive path) by his own actions. . . What may be called true authority is brought about first in bearing oneself with the correct etiquette and in making clear

the distinction between right and wrong, reward and punishment. If one will act this way, and be neither prideful nor intimidating toward others, the retainers and the common people will not respect him simply out of fear, or despise and make light of him, and he will be endowed with a natural authority.



Which is not to say that anger and fear-creating rages were not appropriate from time to time. The samurai is justified in losing cool over matters such as the desecration of shrines and over lack of respect paid to one's lord. Both samurai top and bottom might very well be known for an extreme sense of right and wrong, and the strength and will to stand up for what they believe is right regardless of what others might think or say. And just as the bottom will not sit quietly when disrespect is offered to their top, so will the top be mindful of the treatment of their retainer, for any insult offered to them is offered to the top. It's demanding, and it is rigid, and it's a code of honor which is (sadly) entirely lacking in much public congress. Shiba Yoshimasa, in *The Chikubasho*, notes that:

"A person's character and depth of mind may be seen by his behavior."

The samurai tradition, applied to an SM lifestyle, is a perfect forum from which to test and display one's character.

Notes:

A study of Zen principles would also benefit those who might want to try a samurai relationship, but there wouldn't be enough room to go into even the basics of Zen in these pages. You're on your own.

Books about the samurai tradition are not common; I utilized my local Asian bookstore until the clerks got tired of seeing me. Much of the writing is not easily accessible. Of course there's the *Book of The Five Rings*, and the *Art of War* (which is really Chinese, but had great influence not only in Japan, but in every "civilized" nation which makes war), and the romantic *The Tale of Genji*.

Westernized fiction about Japan (such as *Shogun*) isn't as bad as culture-defenders would have it, and if nothing else would be a good place to start. I owe a great deal of the quotes in this article to *Ideals of the Samurai*, by William Scott Wilson.

This article first appeared in the much-missed *Servant's Quarters* magazine.

(Laura Antoniou is fast becoming the most popular and prolific writer in our scene. Her Marketplace novels have given a new dimension to fantasy-slavery, and her anthologies of leather erotica are international favorites. We are pleased to have her with us.)

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a Journal of BDSM Realities

The *Guardian* is first and foremost a practical guide to safe and enjoyable exotic eroticism. Think of it as a combination of the *Popular Mechanics*™ and *Consumer Reports*™ of kinky sex. Our readership includes people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and power polarities. While readers' experience levels range from "just thinking about it," to "lifestyle devotee," we want to be especially mindful of, and useful to, the *less* experienced reader.

PAYMENT: We pay — not lavishly, but respectably. Please contact us for particulars, including special situations, including illustrations, and reprints. Contributors get a copy of the magazine in which their article appears.

We buy one-time serial rights with a one-time reprint provision. Payment is on acceptance, and we will respond to all submissions within 60 days. SASE required for return.

We take the broadest possible view of what are appropriate topics, so long as content provides *information*.

No fiction, fantasy, poetry or polemic.

Topics could include:

EQUIPMENT: how to use it, where to buy it, how to make it.

TECHNIQUES: physical, psychological, technical how-to's.

RELATIONSHIPS: Roles & Goals, Paradigms of Submission ... "making it work" articles.

EROTIC SCENARIOS: how they're done, pleasures expected, unusual or hidden health and/or safety concerns.*

PERSONALITY PROFILES: Biography or interviews.

LEGAL AND SOCIAL CONCERNS: history, current status, possible outcomes, importance.

IDEAS: Essays, "Op Ed" Pieces, Personal Testimony.

(To be useful, "idea" pieces need more fact & observation — less opinion & reaction.)

CRAFTS AND SKILLS: "Merit badge" stuff, woodworking, knot tying, braiding, first aid, etc.

In fact, almost anything touching on BDSM, Fetish, Power Exchange, might be a successful article, so long as it meets the primary requirement of imparting some *new* information or creative inspiration to at least *some* readers.

SHORTER PIECES: We also buy "filler" pieces: humorous anecdotes, tips and hints, cartoons, media clips.

VIDEO AND PRODUCT REVIEWS: What Authors, Producers and Craftworkers have to say about themselves and their work is probably more useful, and more interesting to readers, than critique by us. We want product releases, and book and video previews, in which they describe their own work in their own words.

Since not every author wants to be his/her own reviewer, we will also be doing traditional reviews of material submitted, and will buy reviews from writers.

Work can be submitted typewritten, or as an ASCII file in PC or Mac format.

*ABOUT "SAFETY":

We assume that our readers are adults and that we, and they, reached maturity by not being "stupid or reckless." *The Guardian* focuses on the pleasure and sensual nature of BDSM and less on the dangers, perils and negatives of BDSM play. If there are some safety or health issues not readily apparent, they need to be included. But we will not belabor the obvious.

DEADLINES:

The next issue of *The Guardian* is #22, and will be ready for the printer the first week in July. If your piece misses the deadline, we will still be buying and paying as we go. In effect, we've got to worry about deadlines ... you can just work to your own schedule.

ARTWORK AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Artists and illustrators are invited to send samples of their work by way of self-introduction. Almost all illustration will be commissioned for particular articles. Possible cover art, photo-essays and folios will be considered on their own merits. We want to project enjoyment, respect, safe-and-sane practice, and consensuality — or at least *not* communicate the reverse.

We are *not* in the market for "pin-up" art, rigid bondage/genitorture studies or depictions of atrocities. Work can be submitted in MAC or WINDOWS disk formats. If photographs are accepted, we prefer to have the negative for proper reproduction — and, of course, Model Releases in keeping with the new law.

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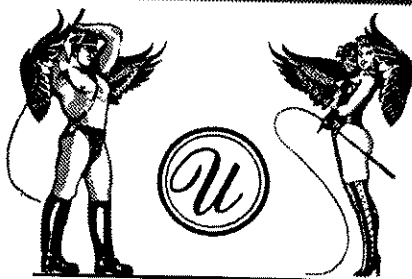
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